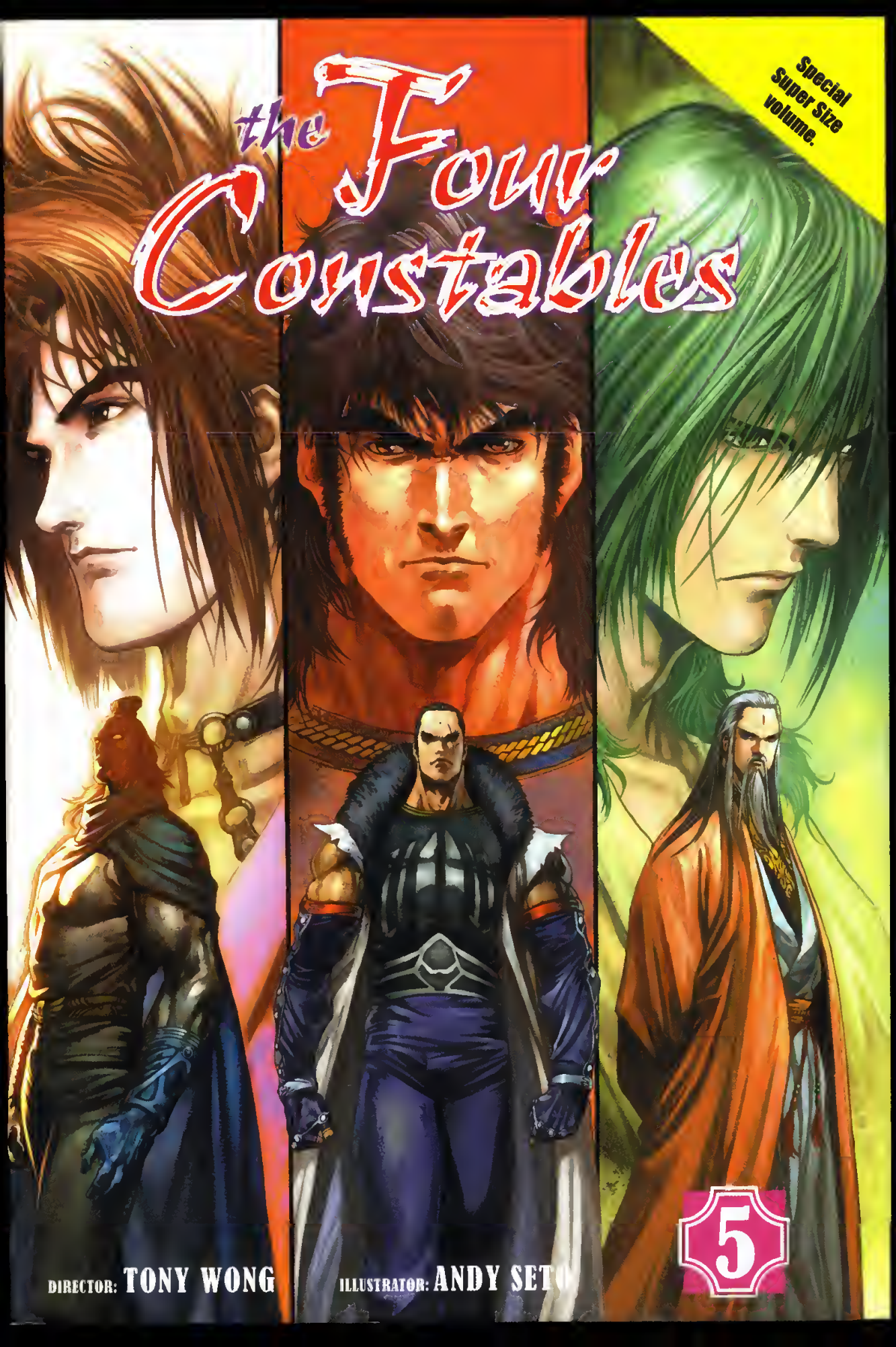
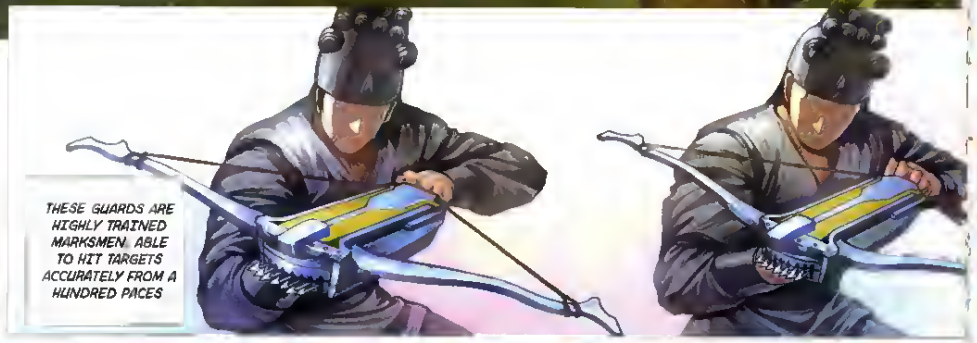

Special Super Size volume.
the Four Constables
5
DIRECTOR: TONY WONG
ILLUSTRATOR: ANDY SETO

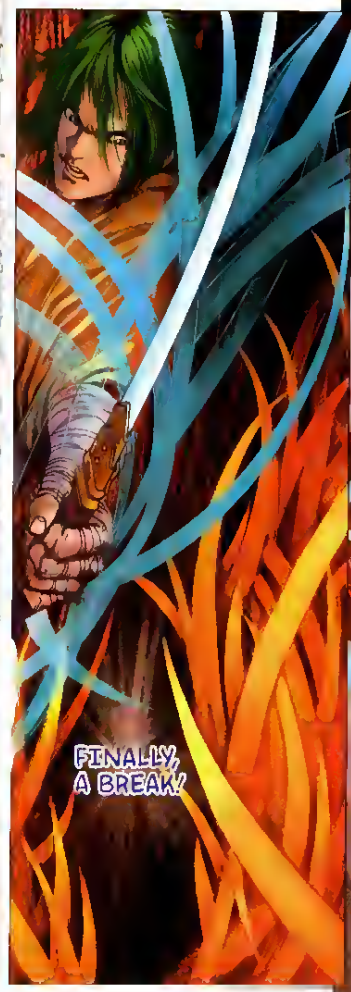
THE POWER CROSSBOW AN INGENIOUS BOW CREATED BY EMOTION LESS. USING GUNPOWDER. IT'S ABLE TO FIRE 49 ARROWS IN A SINGLE ROUND


THESE GUARDS ARE HIGHLY TRAINED MARKSMEN. ABLE TO HIT TARGETS ACCURATELY FROM A HUNDRED PACES

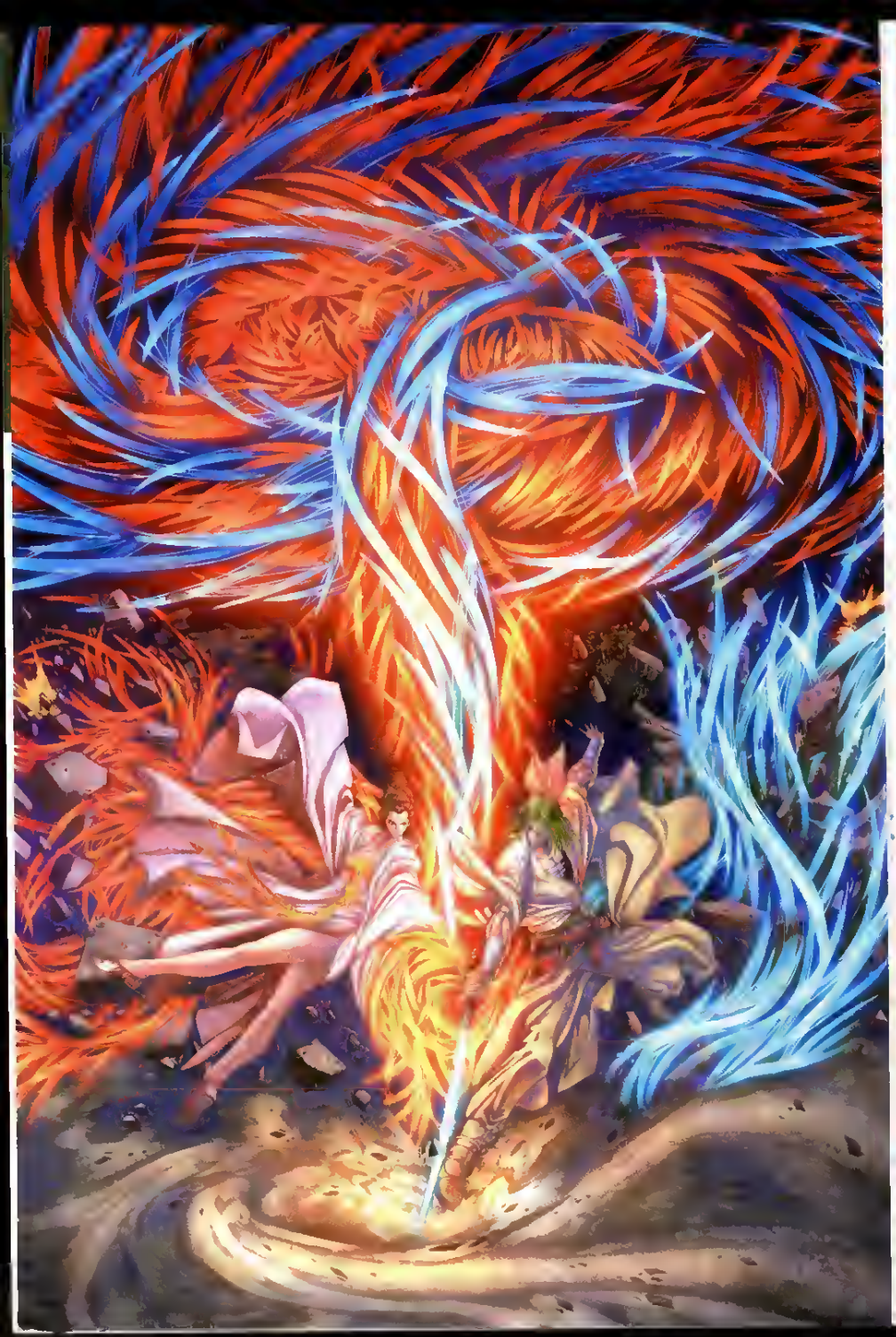
DOZENS OF EYES GLARE DOWN INTO THE COURTYARD, READY TO FIRE...

BUT THE CROSSBOW SQUAD'S JOB IS TO PREVENT THE ENEMY FROM ESCAPING, RATHER THAN INITIATING OFFENSIVE STRIKES.

COLD BLOODED STRUGGLES TO REPEL BLOOD PHOENIX'S FLURRY OF ATTACKS. HER SPEED IS INCREDIBLE!
SH-K LING


FINALLY, A BREAK!

HYAAH!
THE 49 NAMELESS SWORD STANCES
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A SMALL OPENING IN HER STANCE, COLD BLOODED LUNGES FORWARD WITH ALL HIS MIGHT HOPING TO CUT THROUGH HER NET OF BLADES!



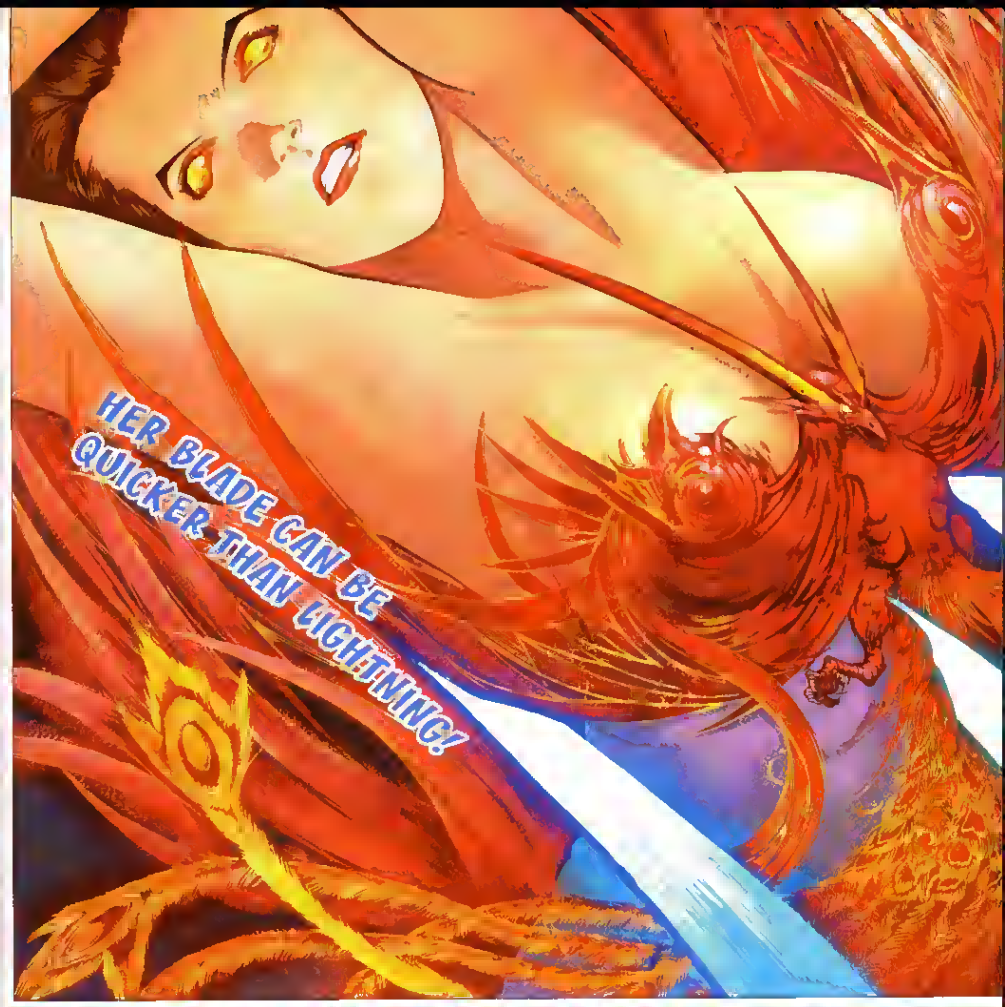
KLANG!
I CANNOT BELIEVE THE SPEED OF HER BLADES . IT'S TERRIFYING!
HIS STANCES ARE SWIFT AND POWERFUL, YET AGILE NO WONDER MOSAN LOST TO HIM!
HIKOOM

IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOU!
THE SPEED OF YOUR BLADES HAS ALSO ASTON-ISHED ME
IN A DUEL BETWEEN THE FASTEST BLADE AND THE QUICKEST SWORD, THE OPPO-NENTS DON'T EVEN FEEL THEIR INJURIES UNTIL THE FURY OF THEIR ATTACKS HAVE DISSIPATED
WHAT?
ASTONISHMENT IS ONLY A PRELUDE TO THE DEATH I WILL NOW BESTOW UPON YOU! HEE HEE HEE!
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY MOSAN GAVE UP. HE COULD NEVER HOPE TO MATCH YOUR SPEED, NOT EVEN IN A MILLION YEARS!
YOUR UGLY SWORD IS NOTHING COMPARED TO MY GOLDEN SABER!

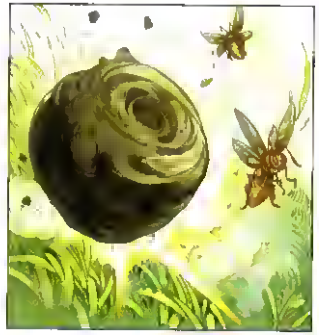
IT TOOK 60% OF MY POWER TO DEFEAT HIM...
80% SHOULD BE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO KILL YOU!
GOLDEN SABER!
A STRANGE BLEND OF EXOTIC METALS, THE GOLDEN SABER IS LIGHT AS PAPER YET ABLE TO TEAR AT THE VERY AIR AROUND IT. COMBINED WITH "CONCEALED SPACE" BLADE STANCES, IT IS AN ULTIMATE KILLING WEAPON.
80%... THANK YOU FOR THAT COMPLIMENT...
BUT YOUR ARROGANCE WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL. THOSE WHO LOOK DOWN ON ME WILL EVENTUALLY DIE BY MY SWORD –
SWOOSH
OF REGRET!
IF YOUR SWORD IS QUICKER THAN MY BLADE, THEN I WILL NOT REGRET LOSING... BUT I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO BEST ME!

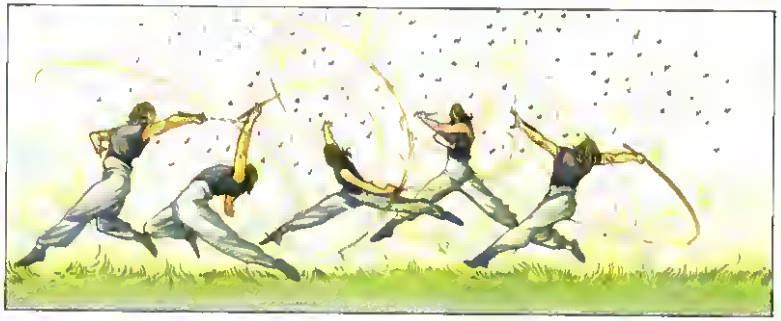
IN TERMS OF SPEED, BLOOD PHOENIX IS FAR QUICKER AFTER A LIGHTNING ROUND OF A HUNDRED STRIKES, COLD BLOODED IS DEFENDING ON INSTINCTS ALONE HIS BODY SHOWS THE STRAIN AS MORE WOUNDS APPEAR!
IS THIS THE EXTENT OF YOUR SKILLS? ACCEPT YOUR DEFEAT!
CONCEAL SPACE WHIRLWIND
I THINK THIS IS YOUR LIMIT AS WELL!

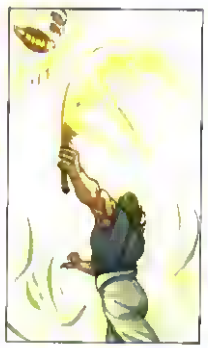
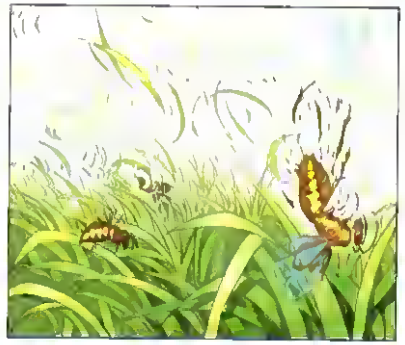
COLD BLOODED'S ATTACK WAS ONLY A FEINT! HE STRIKES INSTEAD TOWARD THE VITAL POINTS ON BLOOD PHOENIX'S ABDOMEN!
NAMELESS SWORD STANCE
LAST SEVEN STANCES
COLD BLOODED HAS MARSHALLED HIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL INTO THIS ATTACK.
THERE IS NO ROOM TO RETURN THE
BLOOD PHOENIX SEEMS DOOMED TO DEATH. UNLESS..

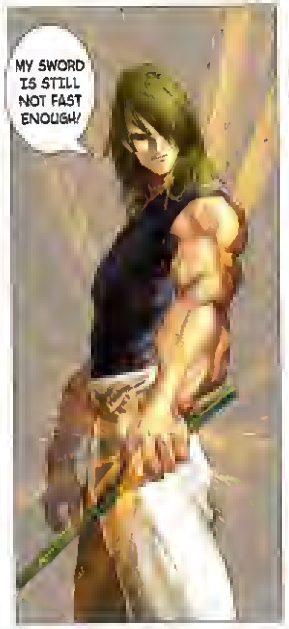

HER BLADE CAN BE QUICKER THAN LIGHTNING!

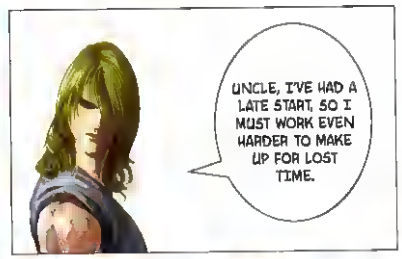
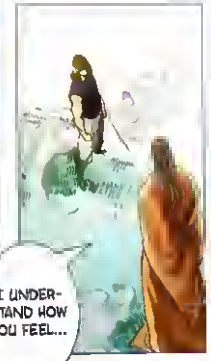
CONCEALED SPACE BLADES
CERTAIN DEATH ONE STANCE
STEALING SPACE AND TIME
UNTIL NOW, NOBODY KNEW HOW SWIFT A SWORD COULD BE! INDEED, BLOOD PHOENIX'S BLADE SEEMS TO HAVE STOLEN ALL THE POWERS OF SPACE AND
YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO USE MY BEST SKILL. YOU CAN NOW DIE WITHOUT ANY REGRETS!
WHAT SPEED! MY SWORD SEEMS SLOW AS A SNAIL BEFORE HER. THERE IS NO CHANCE FOR ME TO COUNTER...
SLO?
SLOW...
FAST... AND SLOW...





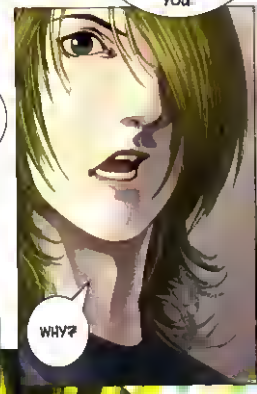
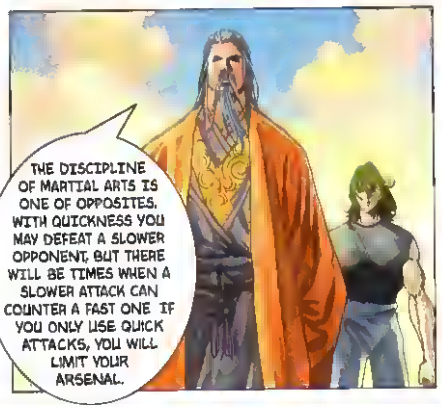




MY SWORD IS STILL NOT FAST ENOUGH!

YOU HAVE ONLY BEEN PRACTICING FOR A YEAR; DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF! YOUR PROGRESS IS COMMENDABLE!

UNCLE, I'VE HAD A LATE START, SO I MUST WORK EVEN HARDER TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL...

THAT IS WHY I HAVE TAUGHT YOU THIS SWORD SKILL, WHICH UTILIZES SPEED RATHER THAN CHI POWER. IT IS SIMILAR TO YOUR TEMPERAMENT AND WELL SUITED TO YOU.

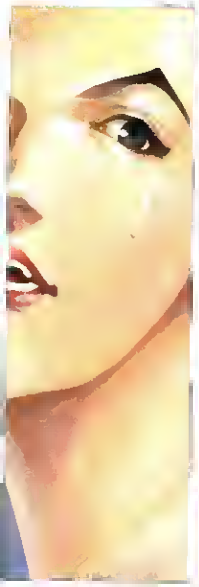
THANK YOU UNCLE, I WON'T LET YOU DOWN! I WILL BECOME THE FASTEST SWORD IN THE LAND!
THIS SWORD SKILL IS NOT PERFECT, BUT IT WILL AID YOU IN YOUR TRAINING.

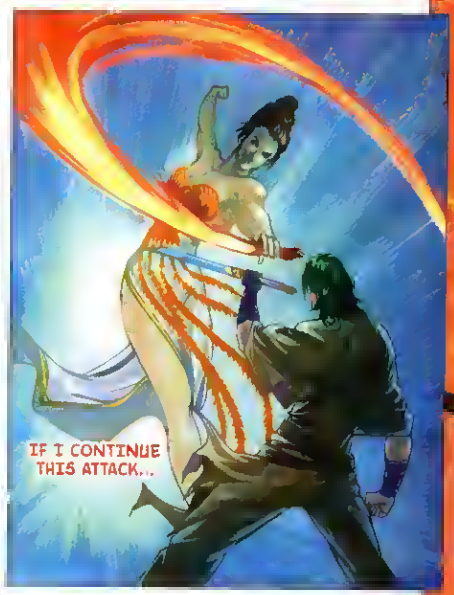
NOT NECESSARY!

WHY?

THE DISCIPLINE OF MARTIAL ARTS IS ONE OF OPPOSITES. WITH QUICKNESS YOU MAY DEFEAT A SLOWER OPPONENT, BUT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN A SLOWER ATTACK CAN COUNTER A FAST ONE. IF YOU ONLY USE QUICK ATTACKS, YOU WILL LIMIT YOUR ARSENAL.

UNCLE, I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND...
DON'T WORRY. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE ESSENCE OF THE "SLOW" ATTACK.

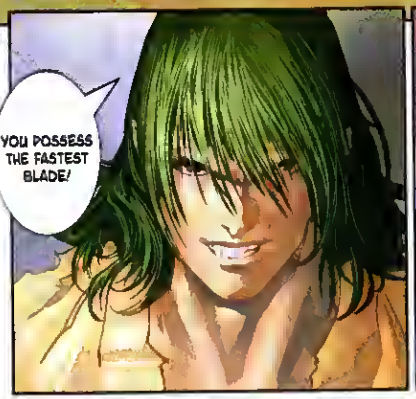
REMEMBERING MASTER ZHUGE'S TEACHINGS, COLD BLOODED FEELS CALM, AND IS READY TO FIGHT ONCE MORE HE PULLS BACK HIS BLADES

IN TERMS OF SPEED. HIS SWORD IS NOWHERE CLOSE TO BLOOD PHOENIX'S. WILL HE BE ABLE TO BLOCK THIS KILLING BLOW?

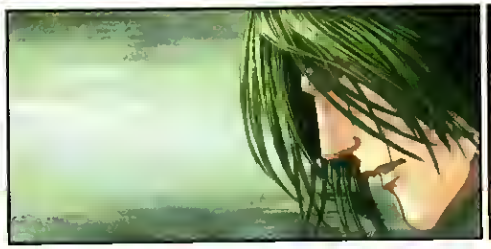


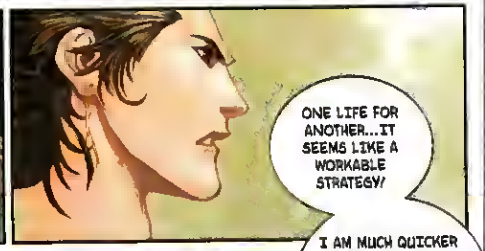

IF I CONTINUE THIS ATTACK...

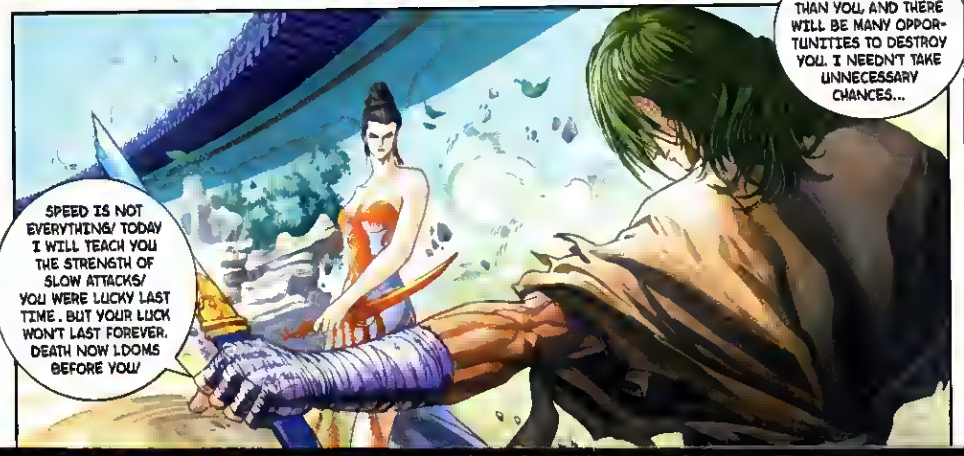
WE WILL BOTH DIE!


YOU POSSESS THE FASTEST BLADE!

YOU ARE SLOW, AND JUST GOT LUCKY THIS TIME. IT DOESN'T COUNT!




ONE LIFE FOR ANOTHER...IT SEEMS LIKE A WORKABLE STRATEGY!


I AM MUCH QUICKER THAN YOU, AND THERE WILL BE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DESTROY YOU. I NEEDN'T TAKE UNNECESSARY CHANCES...
SPEED IS NOT EVERYTHING! TODAY I WILL TEACH YOU THE STRENGTH OF SLOW ATTACKS! YOU WERE LUCKY LAST TIME. BUT YOUR LUCK WON'T LAST FOREVER. DEATH NOW LOOMS BEFORE YOU!

ON THE OTHER FRONT, EARTH WALKER HAS TURNED THE TABLES.
THAM
ICE SOUL STRIKE!
BAIYU ZHOU SHOOTS HIS SPECIALIZED ICE CHI THROUGH HIS BACK. SUDDENLY, EARTH WALKER SHAKES AS IF HE'S FALLEN INTO AN ICE COLD CELLAR!
ZHOU THWARTS EARTH WALKER'S SURPRISE ATTACK AND EVEN MANAGES TO INJURE HIM. EARTH WALKER RETREATS IN FEAR!

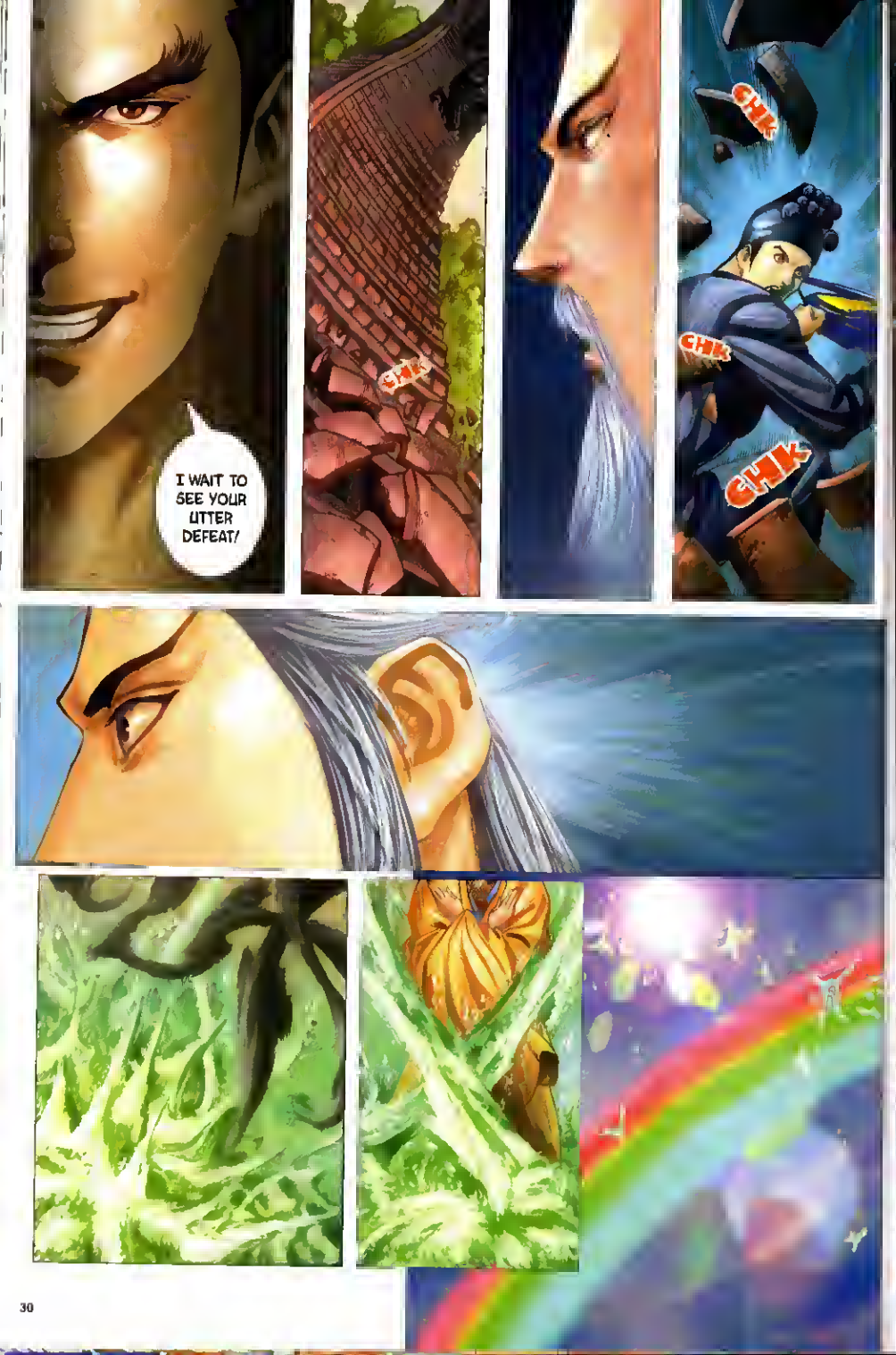
HE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT. HIS SWORD IS MADE OF ICE AND HIS CHI IS JUST AS COLD/ MY ORGANS FEEL AS IF THEY'RE FROZEN. HE ALMOST FINISHED ME/ DAMN/
EVIL, LECHEROUS CRIMINAL/ YOU HAVE RAPED AND HARMED ENOUGH WOMEN. YOU MUST DIE FOR THEM TO RECEIVE JUSTICE/
I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU/
EARTH WALKER HAS NO ROOM TO RETREAT. HE CAN ONLY FACE THE ATTACK HEAD ON/
DEATH FIST
KWA-KOOM
KOOM
EARTH WALKER CONTINUES RETREATING. HE SEEMS TO BE IN BAD SHAPE/
FLOATING LIGHT
PHANTOM SHADOW

BAIYU ZHOU SEEMS TO BE GAINING THE UPPER HAND AGAINST EARTH WALKER.
"COLD BLOODED" LINGQI'S EYES GLOW WITH POWER. IT SEEMS HE HAS SOMETHING IN MIND!
BIG ESCAPE
YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME, OLD MAN!
MASTER ZHUGE'S STRATEGY IS UNPREDICTABLE. RATHER THAN FACING SIMA'S ATTACKS DIRECTLY, HE CONTINUES TO DODGE AND
DEATH FIST THIRD STANCE IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL! EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES CRUMBLES AWAY!
THERE'S NO WHERE TO GO!

THA-KOOM

HA..
HA..
HA...
HA...
HA...
MASTER ZHUGE, YOU ARE SO TRICKY! HA HA HA!
I HAVE MY REASONS FOR DODGING...

I KNOW YOU LIVE ONLY TO BE KILLED BY A STRONGER OPPONENT. THAT IS WHY I WON'T FACE YOU DIRECTLY!
WHY?
I REALLY WANT TO CAPTURE YOU ALIVE, AND I AM NOT SURE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK FROM KILLING YOU OUTRIGHT!
YOU WOULD RATHER BE A COWARD?
IF I CAN AVOID BLOODSHED TO RESOLVE THIS CONFLICT, I'LL GLADLY RISK THE SLANDER!
BECAUSE OF THAT, I AM EVEN MORE EAGER TO HELP YOU! LET US STOP ATTACKING AND SEE WHO WILL FALL FIRST!
HA HA HA!
SIMA IS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD. HE STANDS FIRM, LIKE AN INDOMITABLE MOUNTAIN, BUT...
HIS INTENSE DEATH CHI WRAPS AROUND MASTER ZHUGE, WAITING FOR ANY LAPSE IN DEFENSE, READY TO POUNCE AT WILL!
IF I AM CORRECT, SIMA...IT IS NOW MY TURN
THE WINDS OF FORTUNE TURN WITH TIME. YOU WERE THE ONE WAITING. NOW I WILL BE THE ONE TO WAIT
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?


I WAIT TO SEE YOUR UTTER DEFEAT!
CHK
CHK
CHK
CHK

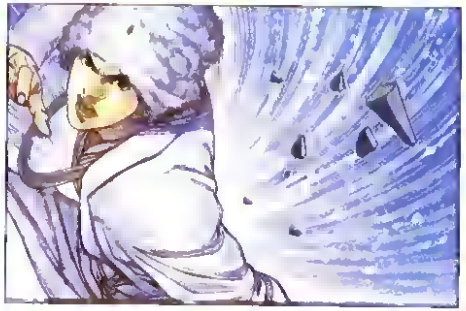
TRI-CHI DELTA FORCE STRIKE
MASTER ZHUGE HEARS THE PERIL OF HIS ARCHERS. AND HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ATTACK. HE MUST SWEEP THIS MANIAC ASIDE!

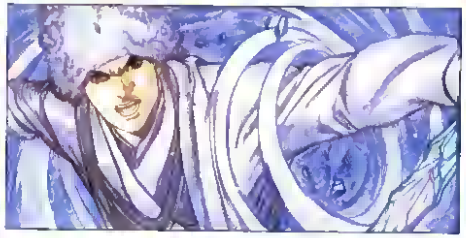
HA HA! YOU FINALLY WANT TO FIGHT WITH ME! FANTASTIC!
BIG ESCAPE!

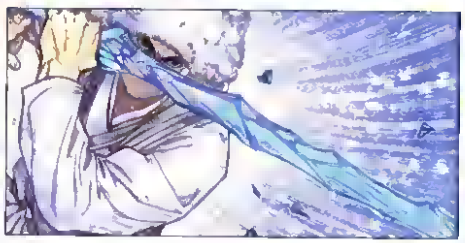
SCHLK

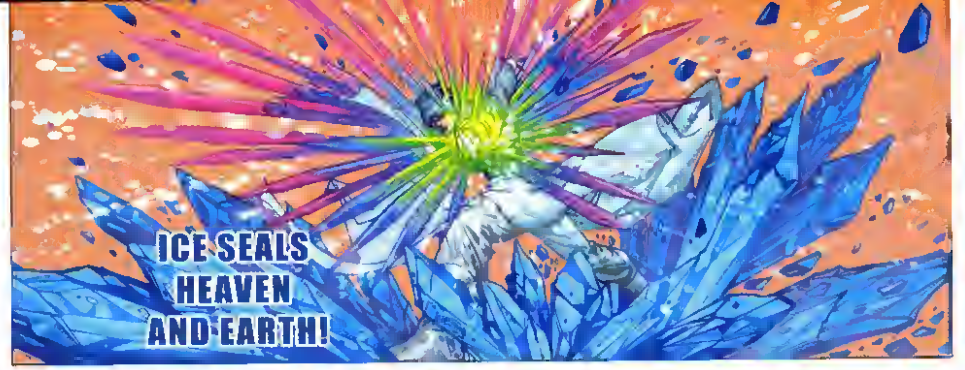
KRAK

SCHLPT








ICE SEALS
HEAVEN
AND EARTH!

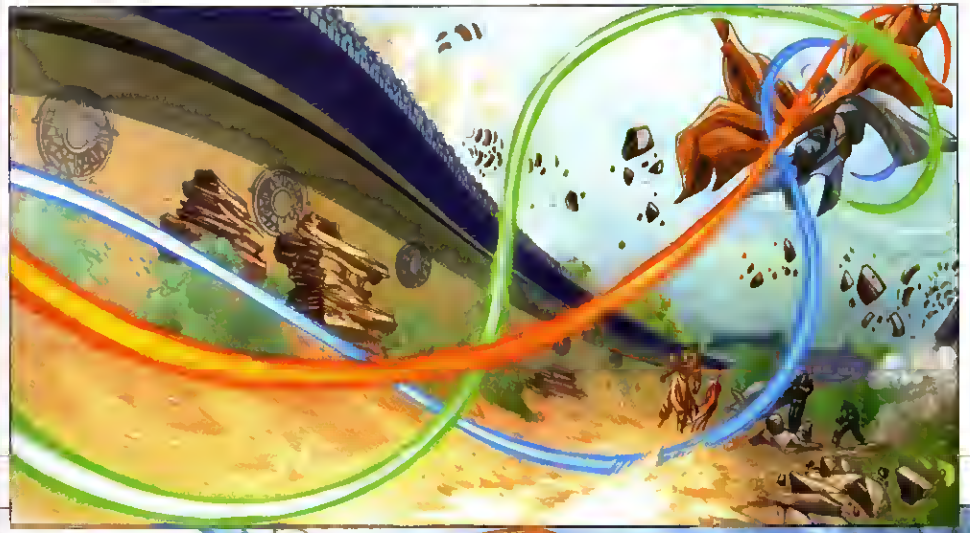
ICE-
TIPPED
SWORD?

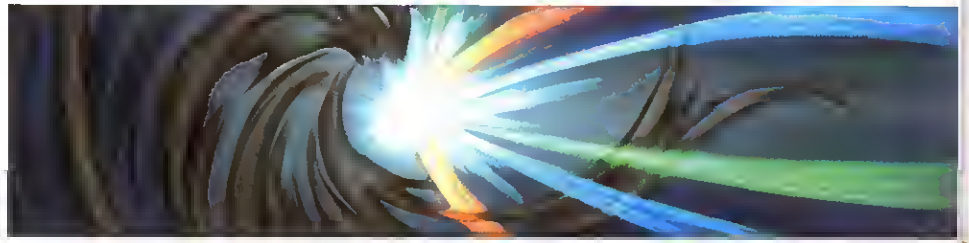
THAT'S ALL
YOU'VE
GOT?

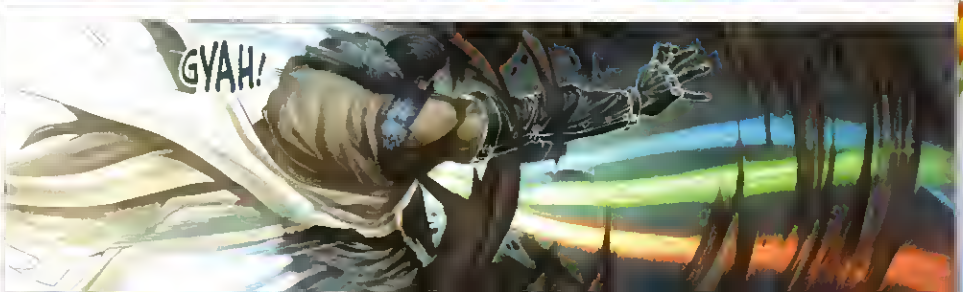
ICE-TIPPED
SWORD
DEFEATS
ICE-TIPPED
SWORD!

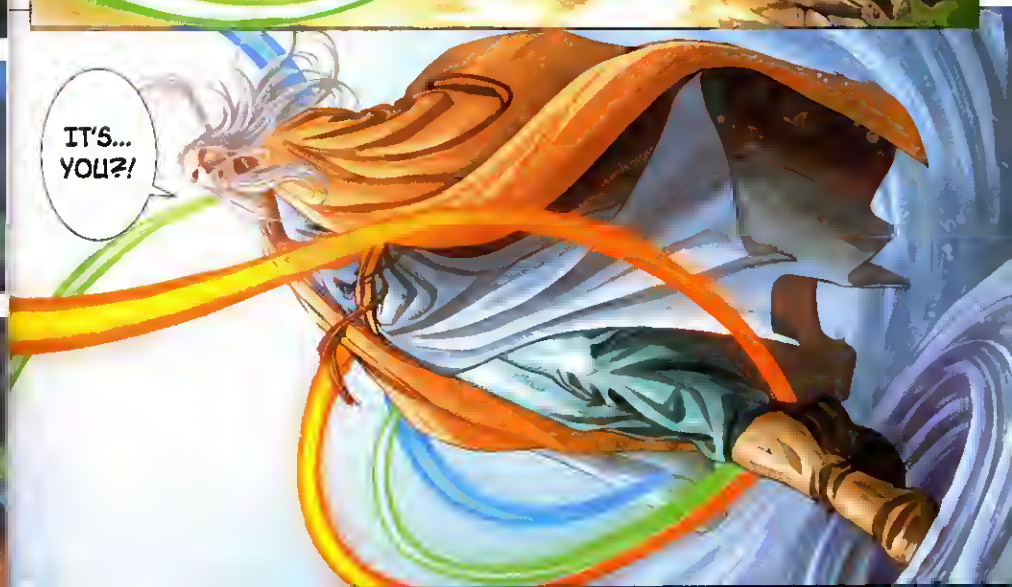
HURK!

MASTER ZHUGE DODGES SIMA'S ATTACK AND RUSHES TOWARD THE COURTYARD TO RESCUE BAIYU ZHOU!





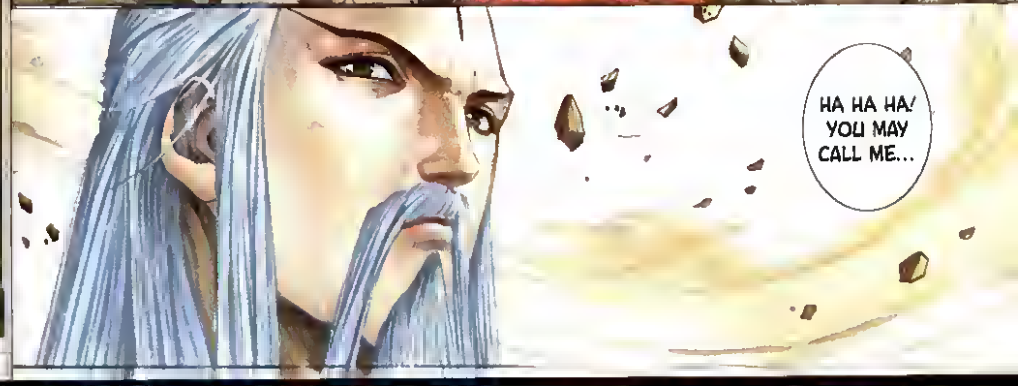

GYAH!


IT'S... YOU?!

HE'S HERE!

IT'S HIM!!

ICE-TIPPED SWORD IS MY FAMILY'S SECRET TECHNIQUE! WE HAVE NEVER TAUGHT ANYONE ELSE! WHO ARE YOU?


HA HA HA! YOU MAY CALL ME...

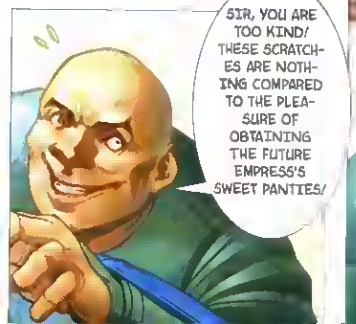
DUKE ZHU WU
-
THE MASTERMND
WHAT IS THIS? THE MASTERMIND IS DUKE ZHU WU? HAS MASTER ZHUGE VASTLY MISCALCULATED?!

I WILL BE EMPEROR.

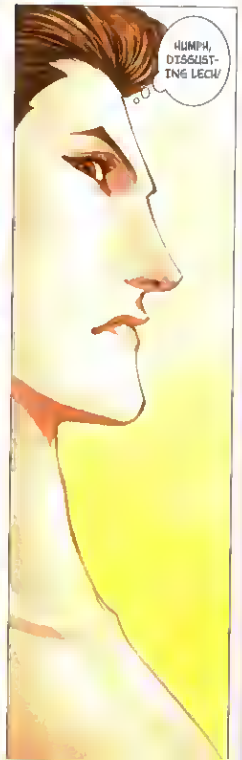
HOW DO YOU KNOW OF MY FAMILY'S SECRET TECHNIQUE?
MASTER ZHOU, YOU SEEM TO HAVE MANY QUESTIONS FOR ME, UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WILL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWERS. YOU ARE MERELY A PAWN IN THIS GAME.
AND SOON YOU WILL BE A CORPSE!
TANG
USING A LEAF AS A PROJECTILE? HIS POWERS ARE INCREDIBLE! NO WONDER BAIYU ZHOU LOST AFTER ONE STRIKE!
BAIYU ZHOU'S LOSS IS DOUBLY BITTER DUE TO THE COMBINATION OF DUKE ZHU WU'S UNFATHOMABLE POWERS AND THE SHOCK OF SEEING HIS OWN FAMILY'S TECHNIQUES BEING USED AGAINST HIM!
HIS EYES SHINE WITH BATTLE RESOLVE. HE DOESN'T SEEM AT ALL INJURED. CONTRARY TO RUMORS, HIS SKILL AT DECEPTION IS INDEED EXCEPTIONAL!
AS LONG AS I, COLD BLOODED, STILL BREATHE, NO ONE MAY HARM MY FRIEND!

I ADMIRE YOUR HONORABLE INTENTIONS .SO I WILL KILL YOUR FRIEND LAST/

BOSS, YOU CAME JUST IN TIME. I WAS ABOUT TO BE SENT STRAIGHT TO THE GATES OF HELL/
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK/

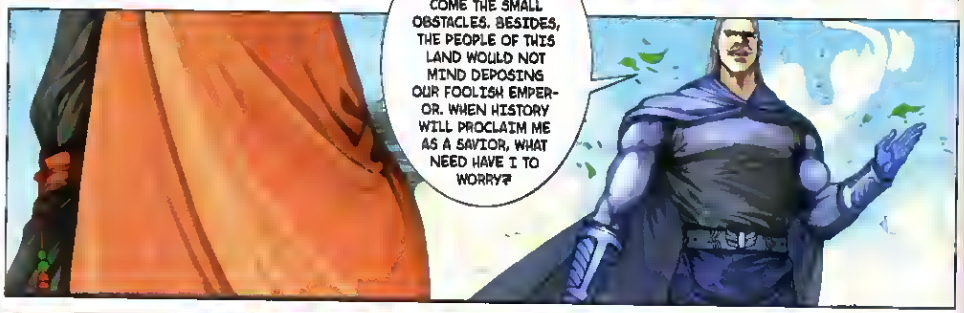

SIR, YOU ARE TOO KIND/ THESE SCRATCHES ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE PLEASURE OF OBTAINING THE FUTURE EMPRESS'S SWEET PANTIES/

DON'T WORRY ONCE THIS IS OVER AND I CONTROL THE WORLD, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR PICK IN THE CONCUBINE PALACE/


HUMPH, DISGUSTING LECH/

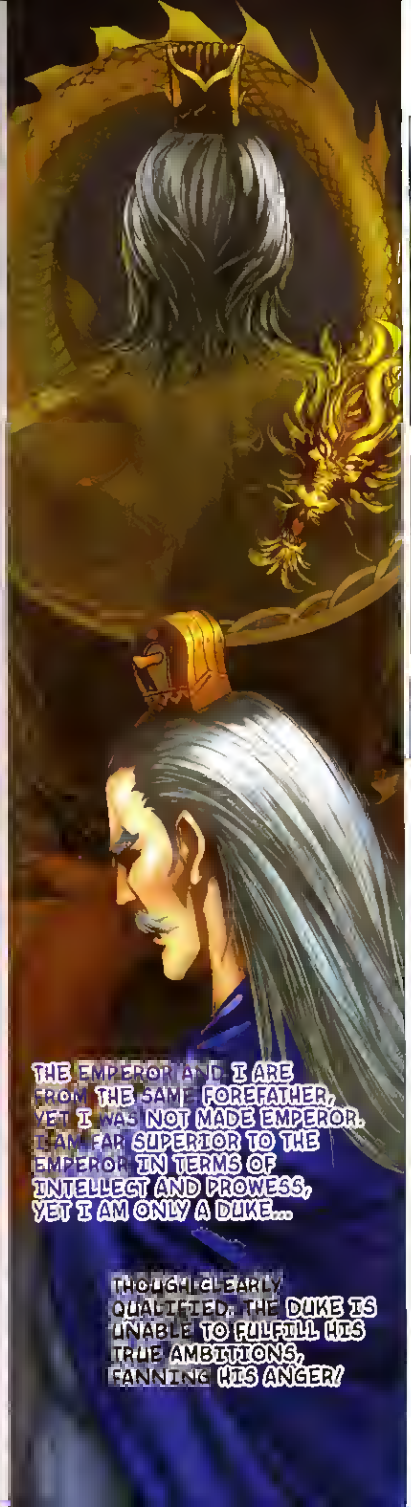
13 MURDERERS
BLOOD PHOENIX AND MOSAN GEIGEI CRAVED TO LEARN NEW MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES; PRINCE XIMEN WANTED FAME AND FORTUNE; ELDER GUAN WAS PAYING BACK GOOD DEEDS DONE, AND EARTH WALKER IS LECHEROUS...THE 13 MURDERERS EACH HAD THEIR OWN DESIRES AND THEY BECAME PAWNS BECAUSE EACH OF THEM HAD A FATAL CHARACTER FLAW
BUT WHAT ABOUT SIMA? THIS MONSTER, WHO WELCOMES DEATH, AND HAS NO DESIRES HOW IS DUKE ZHU WU ABLE TO SECURE HIS UNYIELDING LOYALTY?

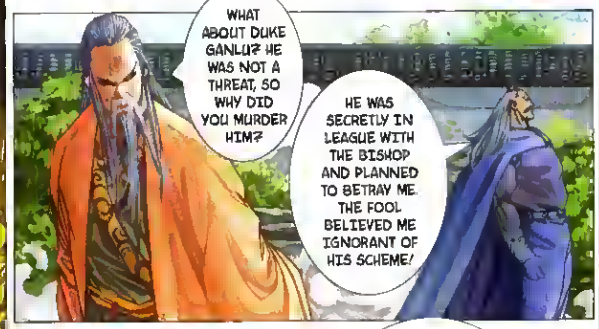
DUKE YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABOVE THE STRIFE AND POWER STRUGGLES OF THE COURT. I WOULD PRAISE SUCH VIRTUE IF YOU WERE NOT A COLD-BLOODED KILLER!

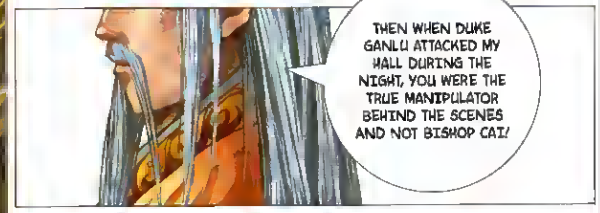

THOSE WHO WISH TO ACHIEVE LOFTY GOALS MUST OVERCOME THE SMALL OBSTACLES. BESIDES, THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND WOULD NOT MIND DEPOSING OUR FOOLISH EMPEROR. WHEN HISTORY WILL PROCLAIM ME AS A SAVIOR, WHAT NEED HAVE I TO WORRY?

YOUR SECRET MANIPULATION OF THE 13 MURDERERS, AND ALL THE ATROCIOUS CRIMES YOU HAVE COMMITTED OVER THE YEARS, WAS IT ALL TO ALLOW YOU TO BECOME EMPEROR?

BUT OF COURSE! EVERY PERSON I MURDERED WAS A LOYALIST TO THE FOOLISH EMPEROR.
THOUGH MOST HAVE GONE INTO SECLUSION, THEY STILL WIELD A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE IN THE COURT. IF THEY WERE TO JOIN FORCES-ESPECIALLY WITH THAT WILY OLD FOX, BISHOP CAI-I COULD NEVER HOPE TO SUCCEED. I HAD TO GET RID OF THEM!


THE EMPEROR AND I ARE FROM THE SAME FOREFATHER, YET I WAS NOT MADE EMPEROR. I AM FAR SUPERIOR TO THE EMPEROR IN TERMS OF INTELLECT AND PROWESS, YET I AM ONLY A DUKE...
THOUGH CLEARLY QUALIFIED, THE DUKE IS UNABLE TO FULFILL HIS TRUE AMBITIONS, FANNING HIS ANGER!


WHAT ABOUT DUKE GANLU? HE WAS NOT A THREAT, SO WHY DID YOU MURDER HIM?
HE WAS SECRETLY IN LEAGUE WITH THE BISHOP AND PLANNED TO BETRAY ME. THE FOOL BELIEVED ME IGNORANT OF HIS SCHEME!

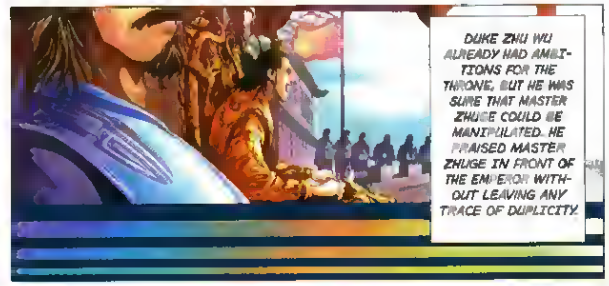

THEN WHEN DUKE GANLU ATTACKED MY HALL DURING THE NIGHT, YOU WERE THE TRUE MANIPULATOR BEHIND THE SCENES AND NOT BISHOP CAI!

YOU ARE WISE, MASTER ZHUGE. I JUST DID WHAT CAME NATURALLY. HIS BETRAYAL GAVE ME AMPLE REASON TO KILL HIM AND FURTHER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE BISHOP WAS THE ONE AFTER YOU. TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
BUT YOU WERE EVER CALM AND DID NOT SEEK TO RETALIATE AGAINST THE BISHOP THUS THWARTING MY PLANS. I HAD TO BEGIN PLOTTING ANEW WHICH MADE ME RECOGNIZE ALL THE MORE WHAT A THREAT YOU ARE TO MY AMBITIONS!

I AM MERELY A MINOR OFFICIAL. HOW COULD I BE SUCH A THREAT TO YOUR PLANS?
I HAVE MASTERED MOST OF THE MARTIAL ARTS IN THE WORLD AND HAVE STUDIED ALL I COULD OF VARIOUS PHILOSOPHIES AND THOUGHT...
YET I HAVE MADE ONE MISTAKE...
I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU! I HAVE VASTLY UNDERESTIMATED YOU! FROM THE BEGINNING, I COULD NOT FATHOM YOU, CONTROL YOU, OR GET RID OF YOU. THAT IS WHY YOU ARE THE FINAL TARGET RATHER THAN BISHOP CAI.

WHEN YOU WERE COMPETING SO MANY YEARS AGO IN THE ROYAL PALACE, YOUR SKILLS ASTOUNDED THE MASSES. FINALLY IT WAS TIME FOR MASTER ZHUGE TO ENCOUNTER DUKE ZHU WU!
THIS MAN IS POWERFUL AND HAS GREAT POTENTIAL. IF I CAN GAIN HIS TRUST, MY PLANS WILL SURELY SUCCEED!
I AM NEVER WRONG. I WILL DO HIM A FAVOR AND PLANT HIM NEXT TO THE FOOLISH YOUNG EMPEROR. THEN I WILL FIND A WAY TO BRIBE HIM INTO MY FAVOR!

THANK YOU, MASTER ZHUGE!


DUKE ZHU WU ALREADY HAD AMBITIONS FOR THE THRONE, BUT HE WAS SURE THAT MASTER ZHUGE COULD BE MANIPULATED. HE PRAISED MASTER ZHUGE IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR WITHOUT LEAVING ANY TRACE OF DUPLICITY.

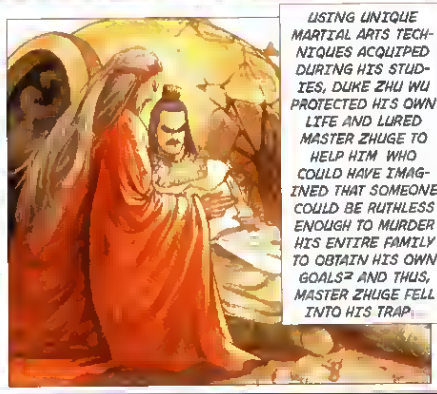
MASTER ZHUGE DID NOT DISAPPOINT DUKE ZHU WU. HIS SKILLS AND WISDOM MADE HIM A FAVORITE OF THE EMPEROR, AND HE QUICKLY ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS. HIS POPULARITY AND POWER SOON RIVALED THOSE OF BISHOP CAI
DUKE ZHU WU DID NOT SIT IDLY BY AS MASTER ZHUGE ROSE IN PROMINENCE. HE HAD BEEN SECRETLY UNCOVERING MASTER ZHUGE'S PAST AND ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT HIS INTERESTS AND HIS DISLIKES...
DUKE ZHU WU BELIEVES THAT NO ONE IS PERFECT, THAT EVERYONE HAS A WEAKNESS. IF THAT WEAKNESS CAN BE EXPLOITED, THEN YOU CAN CONTROL THAT PERSON. HE JUST HAD TO FIND WHAT MASTER ZHUGE SOUGHT AND THEN THREATEN, BRIBE, OR COERCE HIM INTO COMPLICITY.
BUT MASTER ZHUGE WAS ABOVE THE USUAL VICES AND PETTY SQUABBLES. HIS HONORABLE LIFE WAS ABOVE RECRIMINATION, AND THERE WERE NO WEAKNESSES TO BE FOUND. HIS ONLY GOAL IN LIFE IS TO SEE THE HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE. DUKE ZHU WU HAD NO FLAW TO EXPLOIT...

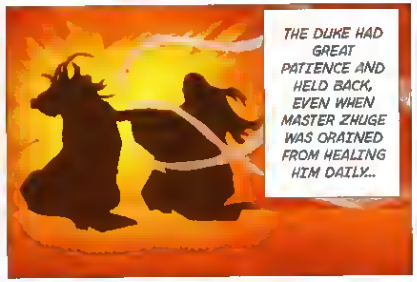
EVEN MORE SURPRISING, NONE OF THE DOZENS OF SCOUTS HE SENT OUT REPORTED BACK TO HIM. MASTER ZHUGE'S PAST REMAINED A WELL-GUARDED MYSTERY. DUKE ZHU WU HAD TO ALTER HIS PLANS, AND BEGAN ELIMINATING OTHER TARGETS FIRST...
TIME PASSED QUICKLY AS DUKE ZHU WU BEGAN HIS EFFORTS TO USURP THE THRONE. MASTER ZHUGE SOON BECAME A FORCE OF GOOD, RIVALING THE BISHOP'S CORRUPTING INFLUENCE IN THE IMPERIAL COURT.

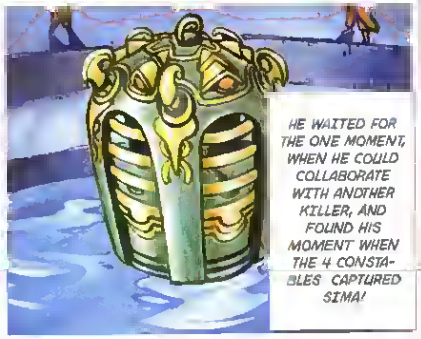
EVER LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC, MASTER'S ZHUGE'S PLACE IN THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS ROSE HIS INCREDIBLE MARTIAL ARTS SKILLS, ALONG WITH THOSE OF HIS FOUR GREAT STUDENTS, HAVE CAST FEAR INTO DUKE ZHU WU'S HEART. HE VOWED TO RID HIMSELF OF THIS THREAT.
MASTER ZHUGE'S SECURED HALL, PLUS HIS WISDOM, UNINTENTIONALLY THWARTED MANY OF DUKE ZHU WU'S SECRET ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. FINALLY WHEN DUKE GANLU FAILED, DUKE ZHU WU REALIZED THE POWER OF MASTER ZHUGE'S POSITION...

DUKE ZHU WU KNEW THAT IN ORDER TO DEFEAT SUCH A POWERFUL ENEMY, HE MUST PUT EVERYTHING INTO HIS EFFORTS. HE MUST BREAK THROUGH ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND DESTROY EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH...

THE DUKE KNEW OF MASTER ZHUGE'S SUPERIOR INTELLECT, SO HE PLANNED THE MASSACRE OF HIS OWN FAMILY TO THROW OFF SUSPICION. SUCH WAS THE POWER OF HIS AMBITIONS!

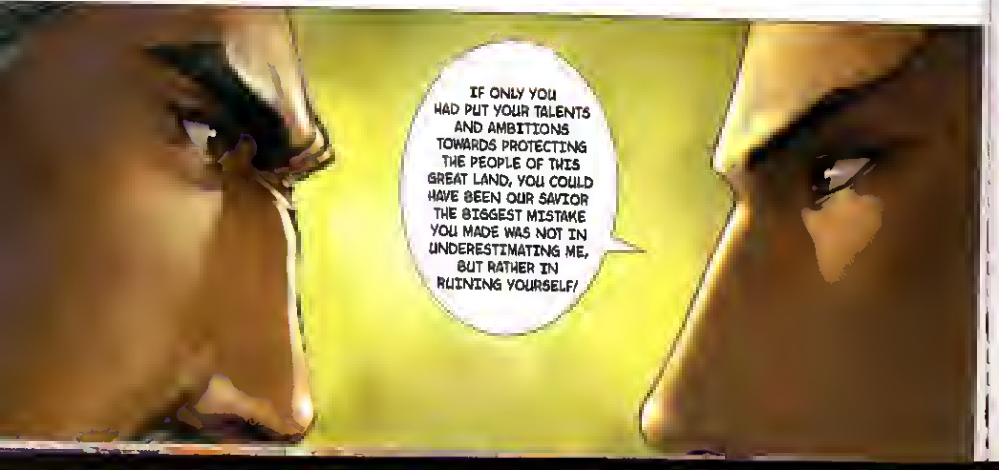

USING UNIQUE MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES ACQUIRED DURING HIS STUDIES, DUKE ZHU WU PROTECTED HIS OWN LIFE AND LURED MASTER ZHUGE TO HELP HIM. WHO COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT SOMEONE COULD BE RUTHLESS ENOUGH TO MURDER HIS ENTIRE FAMILY TO OBTAIN HIS OWN GOALS? AND THUS, MASTER ZHUGE FELL INTO HIS TRAP...


THE DUKE HAD GREAT PATIENCE AND HELD BACK, EVEN WHEN MASTER ZHUGE WAS ORDAINED FROM HEALING HIM DAILY...


HE WAITED FOR THE ONE MOMENT, WHEN HE COULD COLLABORATE WITH ANOTHER KILLER, AND FOUND HIS MOMENT WHEN THE 4 CONSTABLES CAPTURED SIMA!

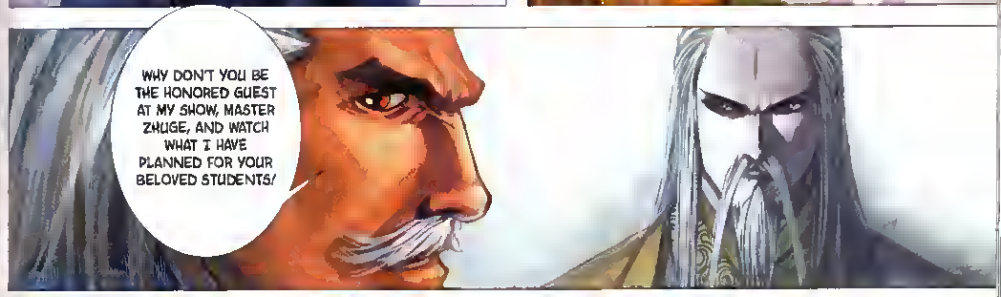
DUKE ZHU WU DEEPLY BELIEVED THAT HIS POWERS, COMBINED WITH HIS 3 MOST TRUSTED UNDERLINGS, WOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THE WEAKENED MASTER ZHUGE!
EVEN IF THERE WERE SURPRISES ALONG THE WAY, MASTER ZHUGE'S DEMISE WOULD BE INEVITABLE!

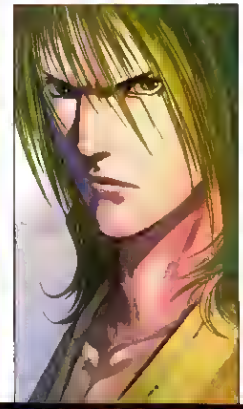
YOU ARE A THORN IN MY SIDE. BECAUSE OF YOU, I HAD TO SACRIFICE MY ENTIRE FAMILY. YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS!

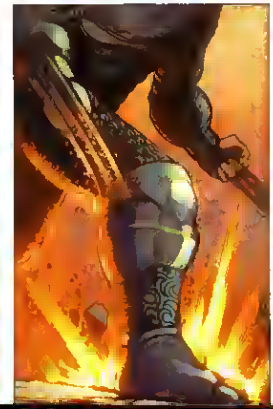

IF ONLY YOU HAD PUT YOUR TALENTS AND AMBITIONS TOWARDS PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT LAND, YOU COULD HAVE BEEN OUR SAVIOR. THE BIGGEST MISTAKE YOU MADE WAS NOT IN UNDERESTIMATING ME, BUT RATHER IN RUINING YOURSELF!

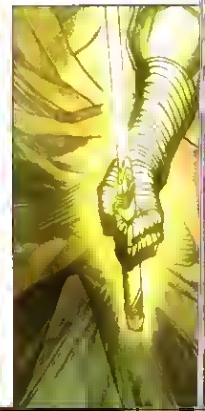
HA HA HA! IT WAS ALL BECAUSE I DID NOT WANT TO RUIN MYSELF! IT WAS BECAUSE I WILL NOT SEE THIS LAND AND PEOPLE DESTROYED BY THE FOOLISH EMPEROR. I HAVE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING, YET YOU STILL FOOLISHLY CLING TO YOUR MISGUIDED IDEALS!

I DO WHAT I BELIEVE IS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF HEAVEN. NONE MAY JUDGE ME OTHERWISE!

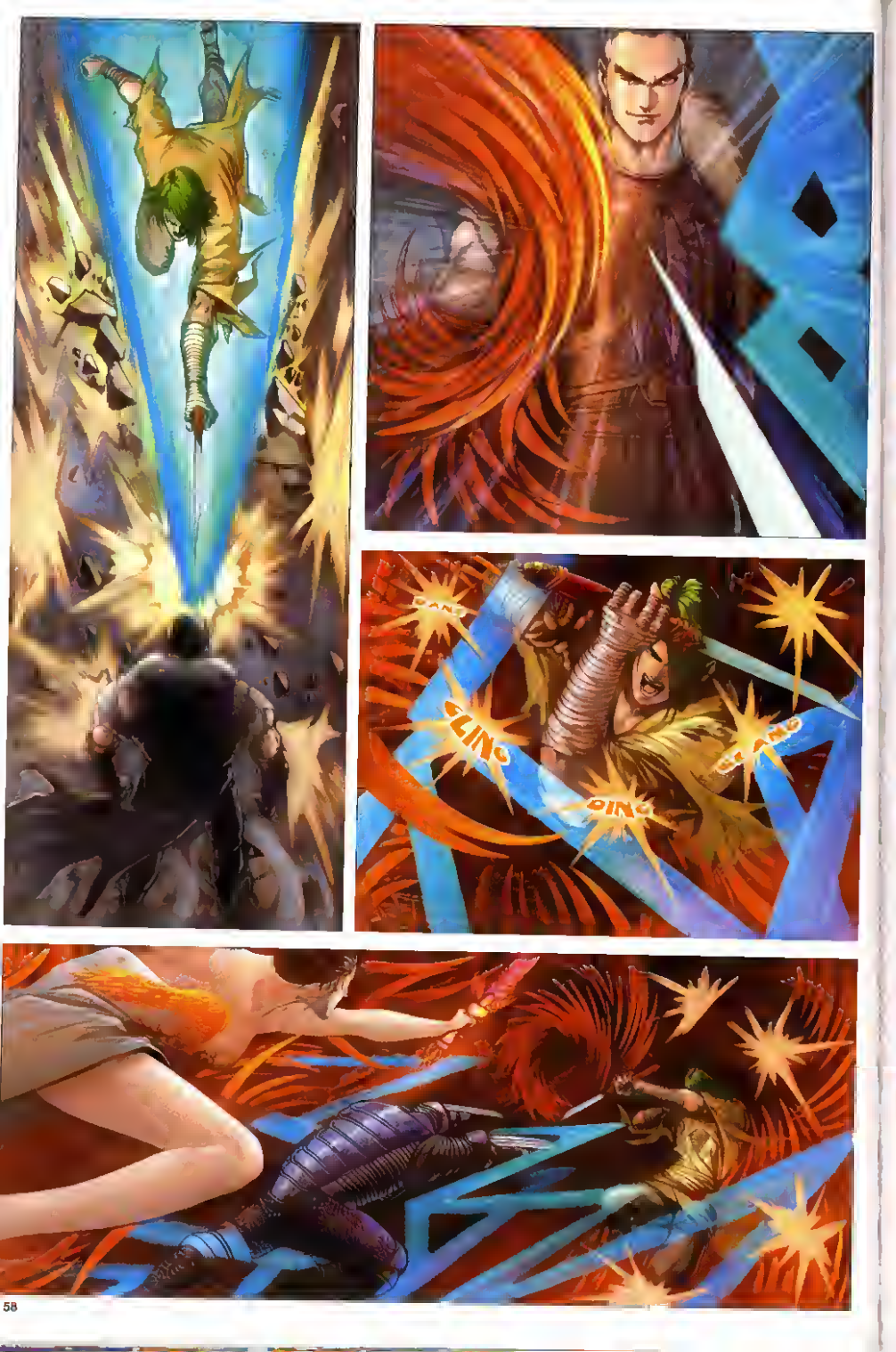

WHY DON'T YOU BE THE HONORED GUEST AT MY SHOW, MASTER ZHUGE, AND WATCH WHAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR YOUR BELOVED STUDENTS!





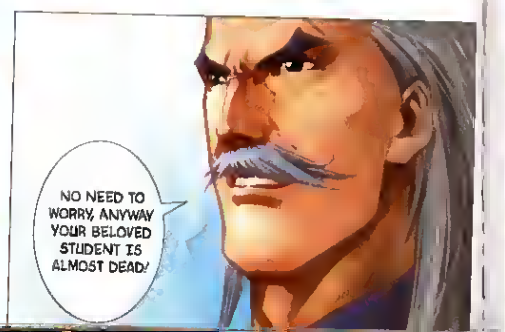


ONE VS. THREE, COLD BLOODED HAS NO CHANCE FOR VICTORY!
SINCE THE 4 CONSTABLES GAINED THEIR FAME, THEY HAVE DEFEATED COUNTLESS ARROGANT CRIMINALS WHO THOUGHT THEMSELVES SUPERIOR IN THE END, NO ADVERSARY EVER SUCCEEDED AGAINST THESE 4 HONORABLE YOUNG MEN. DO YOU KNOW THE REASON, DUKE?
DO TELL.
BECAUSE THEY EACH HAVE A HEART OF JUSTICE THAT WILL NOT ABIDE ANY EVIL!
AAAA


SLING
DING
CLANG

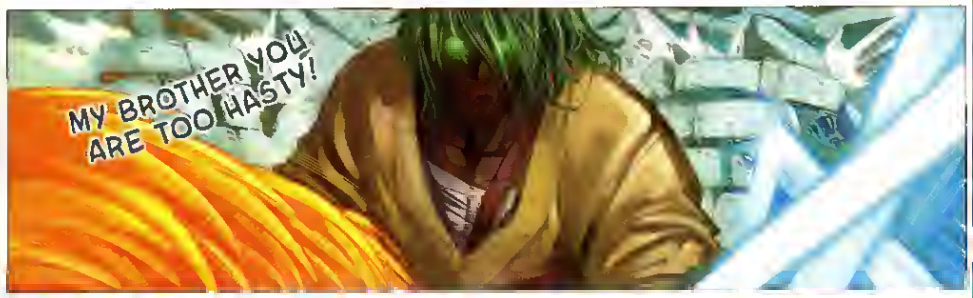
SIMA DOES NOT PARTICIPATE. HIS GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO SEEK AN EXCITING DEATH. PERHAPS HE DOES NOT FEEL IT WORTH HIS TIME AND EFFORT TO FINISH OFF A LAMB TRAPPED IN THE MAW OF A WOLF!
COLD BLOODED FIGHTS ON WITH DETERMINATION, BUT BLOOD PHOENIX ALREADY HAS HIM HARD PRESSED!
AS A RESULT, HE CAN HARDLY HOPE TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST THE WILY EARTH WALKER'S ATTACKS!

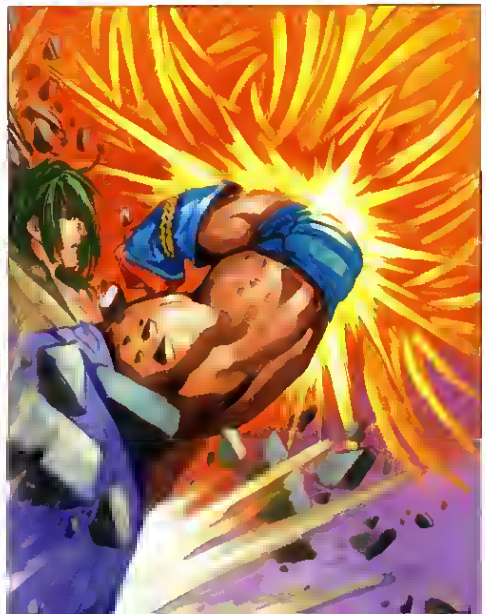
MASTER ZHUGE, YOU ARE INDEED WISE I WON'T MAKE A MOVE UNTIL YOU DO


NO NEED TO WORRY, ANYWAY YOUR BELOVED STUDENT IS ALMOST DEAD!

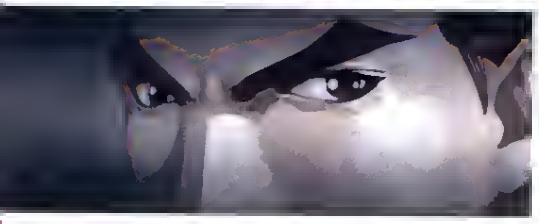
DIE!

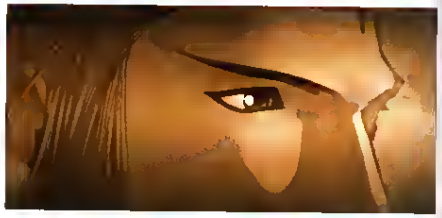
IF I AM TO DIE, THEN I WILL TAKE ONE OF YOU WITH ME!


MY BROTHER YOU ARE TOO HASTY!



LIFE
SNATCHER
IRON
HANDS





I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU IMMEDIATELY, BUT YOU HELPED ME LAST TIME!

LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT IN TIME FOR THE BIG SHOW IT JUST WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE SAME WITHOUT THE TWO STARS!

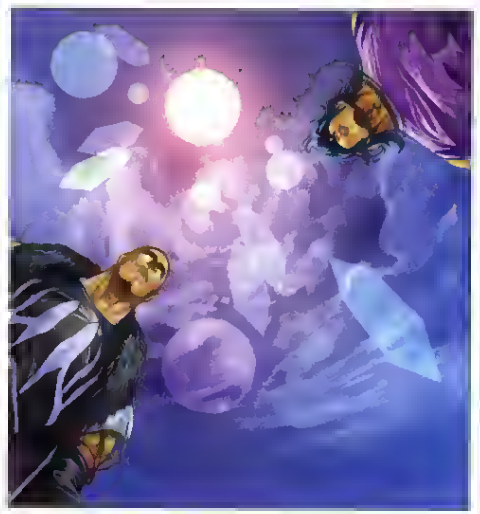
WHERE IS BIG BROTHER? ISN'T HE WITH YOU?

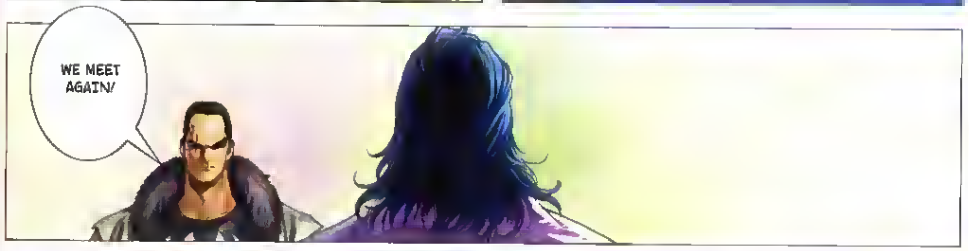
BIG BROTHER... HE ALREADY...

DIED IN BATTLE...
COLD BLOODED DOES NOT SPEAK, BECAUSE HIS THROAT IS CONSTRICTED BY EMOTION...
AND HIS BLOOD BOILS!
HIS EYES ARE SO FRIGHTENING!

RRRAARHGH!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MANIAC. GO HELP OUT UNCLE, THIRD BROTHER!




WE MEET AGAIN!

THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME, AS ONLY ONE OF US WILL SEE THE DAY OUT!
I HAVE NO OTHER DESIRE THAN TO DIE A GLORIOUS DEATH! DON'T DISAPPOINT ME!
DON'T WORRY. I WILL FULFILL YOUR DREAM!

BARE HANDS
VS.
POWER FIST
DEATH FIST
THREE STANCE

UNCLE, WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

DID YAYU HAVE ANY LAST WORDS?

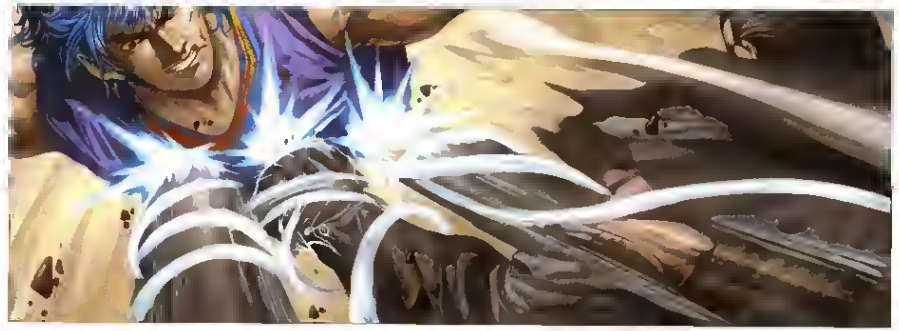
NO, BUT I'M SURE HIS DYING WISH WOULD BE TO...

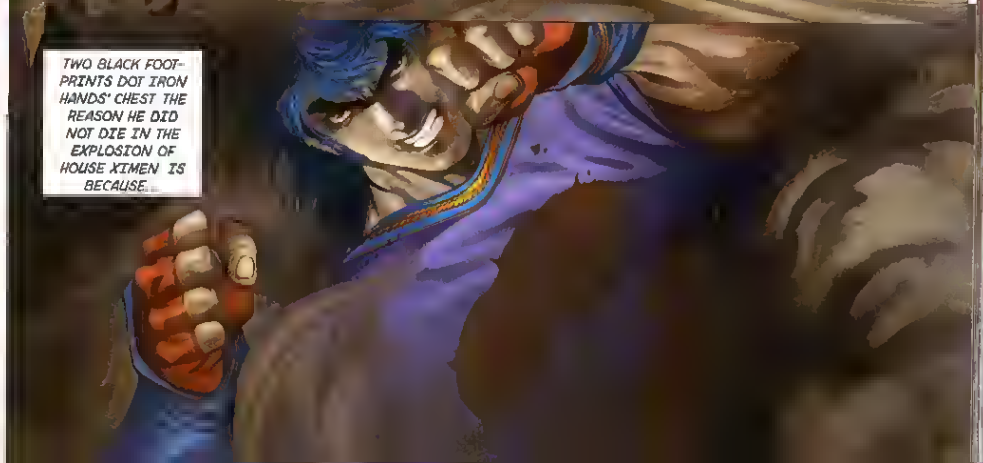
BRING THESE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE!
LIFE SNATCHER GLARES AT DUKE ZHU WU, WHILE PREPARING HIS LEG ATTACKS. HE KNOWS THAT THIS IS THE TRUE CULPRIT BEHIND ALL THE BLOOD-SHED!
HA HA HA! THEIR APPEARANCE WON'T CHANGE YOUR FINAL FATE. THEY ARE JUST TWO MORE CORPSES TO ADD TO THE PILE! VICTORY WILL BE MINE!
DUKE ZHU WU IS NOT BOASTING. HE CAN ALREADY TELL THAT ALL OF THE CONSTABLES ARE GRAVELY INJURED. HE COULD EASILY FIGHT AGAINST ALL FOUR OF THEM AND STILL WIN!

IT IS TOO EARLY STILL TO KNOW THE OUTCOME THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES IN THIS WORLD. BEWARE...

I AM WILLING TO MAKE A WAGER WITH YOU, DUKE IT WILL ONLY TAKE ONE OF MY STUDENTS, FIGHTING YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY, TO DEFEAT YOU!

IRON HANDS VS. SIMA, IT'S A BATTLE OF RAW STRENGTH!
BOOM

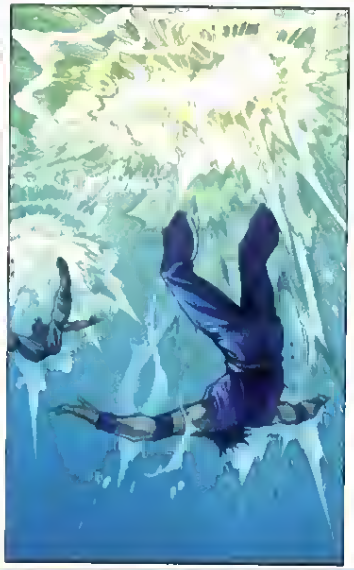


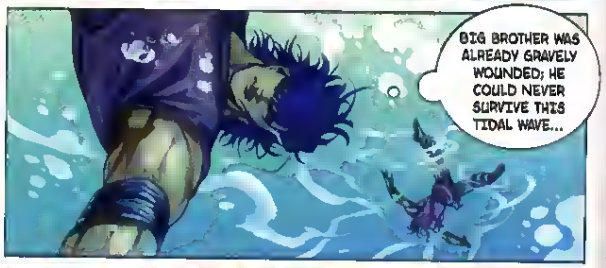

TWO BLACK FOOT-PRINTS DOT IRON HANDS' CHEST THE REASON HE DID NOT DIE IN THE EXPLOSION OF HOUSE XIMEN IS BECAUSE...

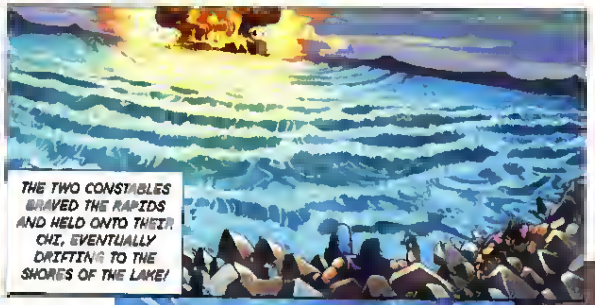
HE MET UP WITH LIFE SNATCHER!!
SECOND BROTHER?
SECOND BROTHER, YOUR OUTFIT IS AMAZING. WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
THIS BLACK TAR IS HIGHLY FLAMMABLE AND EXPLOSIVE. WHERE DID YOU GET THIS DANGEROUS STUFF?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THIS LIQUID WAS LEAKING OUT OF A ROOM FILLED WITH SEALED BARRELS INSIDE! IT SEEMED VERY ODD. WHAT DO YOU THINK, SECOND BROTHER?
HMM... I THINK WE'D BEST...

GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS PLACE WAS FILLED WITH EXPLOSIVES; PRINCE XIMEN WAS PLANNING TO TAKE US WITH HIM TO HELL....
BIG BROTHER, GO!!
KR-A-KOOM

BOOM

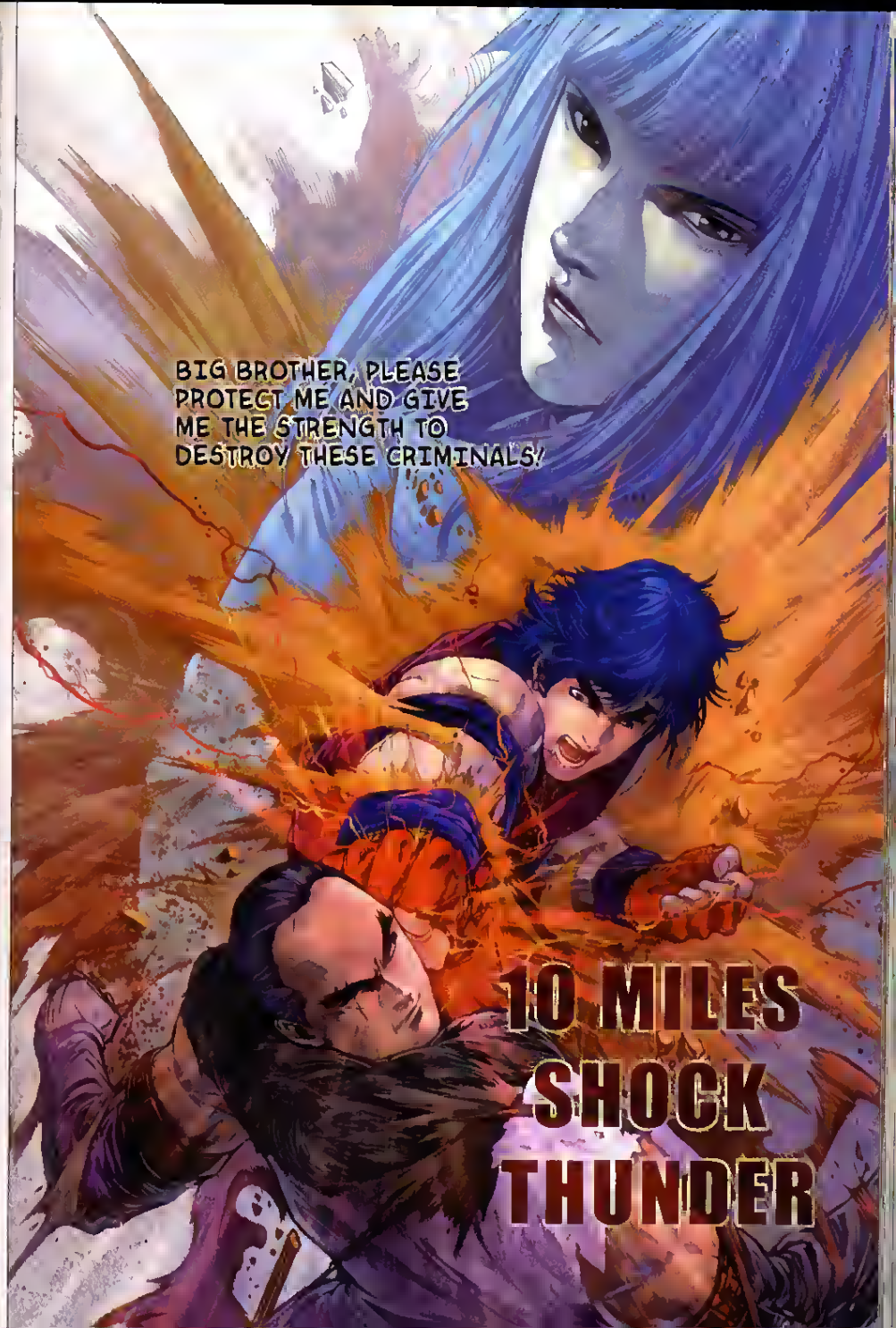


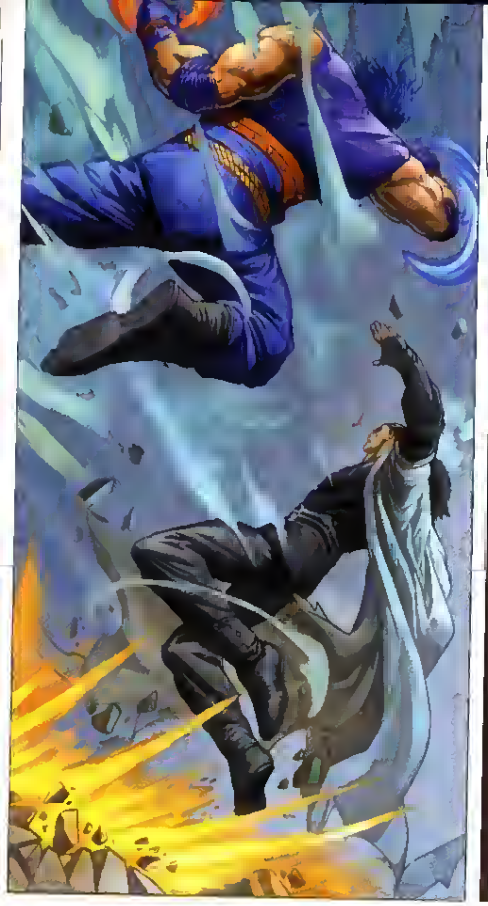

BIG BROTHER WAS ALREADY GRAVELY WOUNDED; HE COULD NEVER SURVIVE THIS TIDAL WAVE...


THE TWO CONSTABLES BRAVED THE RAPIDS AND HELD ONTO THEIR CHI, EVENTUALLY DRIFTING TO THE SHORES OF THE LAKE!

BIG BROTHER...

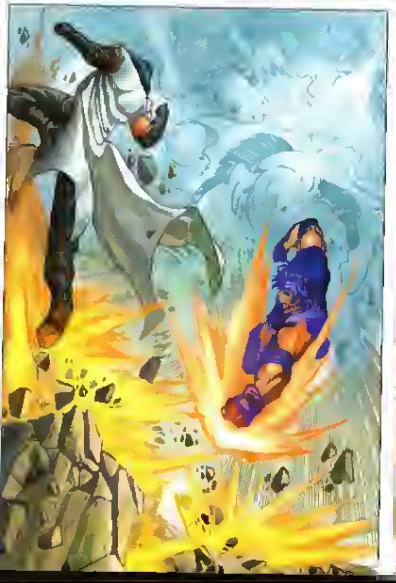
THEY KNEW THAT IT WAS HOPELESS, AND AFTER MUCH REGRET AND PAIN, THEY HURRIED BACK TO MASTER ZHUGE'S HALL.


BIG BROTHER, PLEASE PROTECT ME AND GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO DESTROY THESE CRIMINALS!
10 MILES
SHOCK
THUNDER

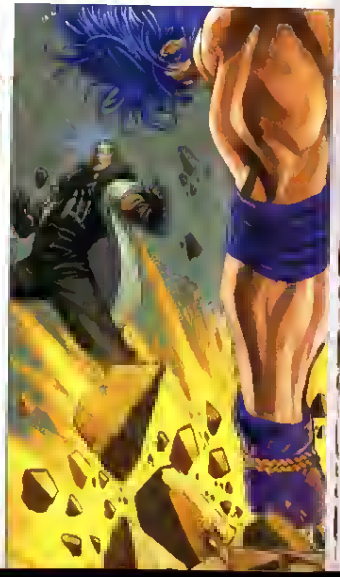


WHAT INCREDIBLE WILL TO KILL/ IT MAKES HIS FISTS EVEN MORE POWERFUL/ THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER HAS CHANGED IRON HANDS INTO ANOTHER ENTITY ALTOGETHER/

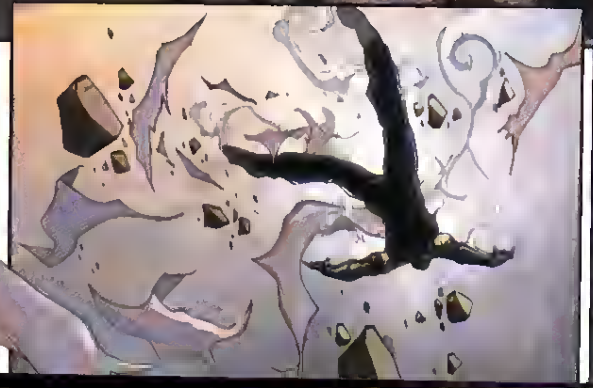
DIE!



YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY!

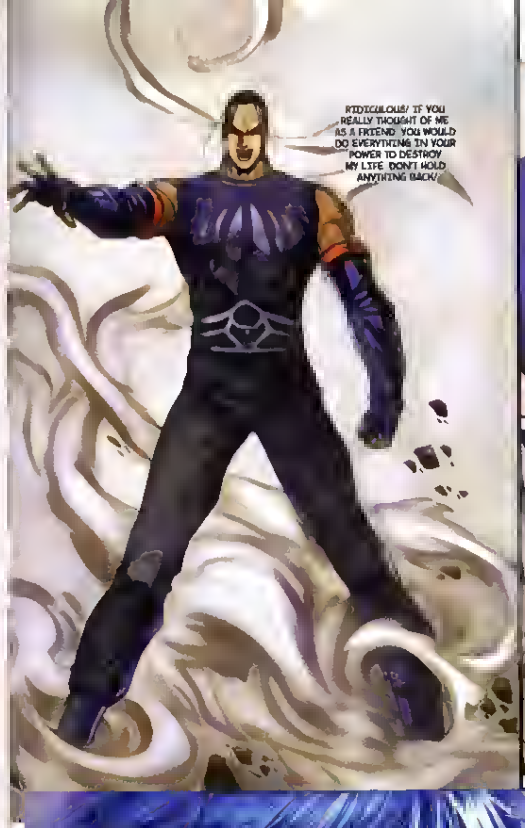


DRAGON
TIGER
TACKLE



HUFF/
HUFF/
HUFF/
HUFF/

DON'T BE HASTY, IRON HANDS. IF YOU REALLY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO GIVE ME GLORIOUS DEATH, I WILL GLADLY WAIT PATIENTLY...
GLADLY, GLADLY, GLADLY, GLADLY
SORRY. ALTHOUGH I DESPERATELY WANT TO KILL A DESPICABLE ANIMAL LIKE YOU, I WOULD STILL RATHER CAPTURE YOU ALIVE AND SEE THAT JUSTICE IS SERVED!
WHY? I HAVE KILLED COUNTLESS PEOPLE I'VE COMMITTED ATROCIOUS CRIMES. DON'T I DESERVE TO DIE?
THE REASON IS SIMPLE, I AM A CONSTABLE OF THE LAW. IT IS MY JOB TO CAPTURE CRIMINALS AND NOT LET MY PERSONAL FEELINGS GET IN THE WAY...
ALSO I HAVE ANOTHER REGRETTABLE REASON... ONCE I THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY FRIEND/ NO MATTER WHAT, I WOULD NEVER WANT THE DEATH OF A FRIEND ON MY HANDS!


RIDICULOUS! IF YOU REALLY THOUGHT OF ME AS A FRIEND, YOU WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO DESTROY MY LIFE. DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK!

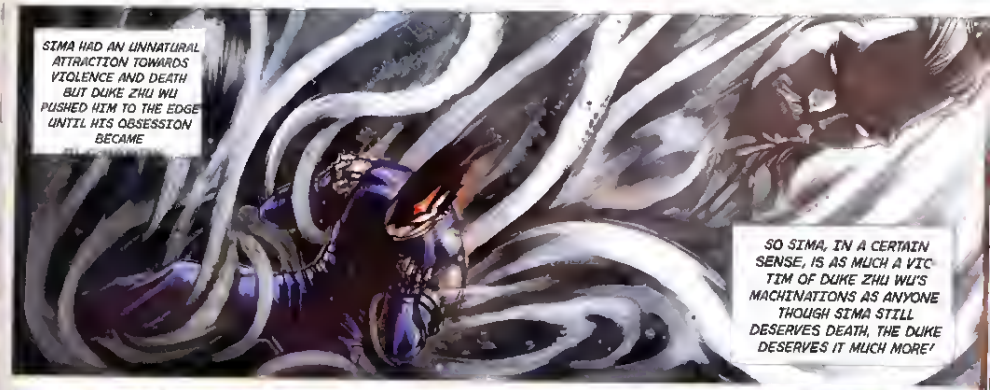
IF THAT IS THE CASE, YOU MUST NOT HAVE MANY FRIENDS!

A FRIEND IS A RARE TREASURE. THERE IS ONLY ONE SUCH PERSON WHO CAN GRANT ME MY HEART'S DESIRE.

DUKE ZHU WU? YOU MEAN THAT... WHEN THIS PLAN SUCCEEDS, WHEN YOU ARE NO LONGER USEFUL, HE WILL KILL YOU?

OF COURSE, WHO DO YOU THINK I AM? IF THERE WAS NOT CONSIDERABLE MOTIVATION, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BOWED DOWN AND GIVEN OVER MY LOYALTIES!

THE BOSS PROMISED THAT ON THE DAY HE ASCENDS TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE HE WILL EXECUTE ME AS A USURPER BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND. HE WILL DESTROY ME IN THE CRUELEST, MOST BRUTAL WAY.
IMAGINE, ON THE DAY OF GLORY, BEING KILLED BY THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON ON EARTH, WITNESSED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD... IS THERE A MORE STIMULATING WAY TO DIE, AND LIVE ON IN INFAMY?
DUKE ZHU WU, YOU HAVE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING! YOU CRUEL BASTARD!
IRON HANDS IS CHILLED TO THE BONE BY THE DETAILS, AND BEGINS TO SEE THE OUTLINES OF THE DUKE'S EVIL PLANS...
AFTER HE ASCENDS TO THE THRONE, HE COULD EASILY PUSH BLAME FOR ALL OF HIS CRIMINAL DEEDS ONTO THE CRAZED SIMA. THEN, BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND, HE WOULD PERSONALLY EXECUTE THIS CRIMINAL TO AVENGE THE DEAD EMPEROR
SIMA SEEMS LIKE HE WAS ONCE NORMAL, BUT INSANITY HAS PERMEATED HIS SOUL. DUKE ZHU WU SAW HIS WEAKNESS AND KNEW THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTION COULD EASILY SWAY HIS HEART!
THE OFFICIALS WOULD BE PLACATED AND THE DUKE COULD SIT ON THE THRONE RIGHTEOUSLY... IT IS ALL SO PERFECT!
BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME HOLES IN HIS PLANS, SUCH AS...


SIMA HAD AN UNNATURAL ATTRACTION TOWARDS VIOLENCE AND DEATH BUT DUKE ZHU WU PUSHED HIM TO THE EDGE UNTIL HIS OBSESSION BECAME
SO SIMA, IN A CERTAIN SENSE, IS AS MUCH A VICTIM OF DUKE ZHU WU'S MACHINATIONS AS ANYONE THOUGH SIMA STILL DESERVES DEATH, THE DUKE DESERVES IT MUCH MORE!

HA HA! I AM DONE WITH WORDS. YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY RECOVERED, IRON HANDS. IT IS TIME TO EXPERIENCE THE WISDOM AND POWER I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE JOY OF DEATH!
DEATH FIST THIRD STANCE
FINAL NIRVANA

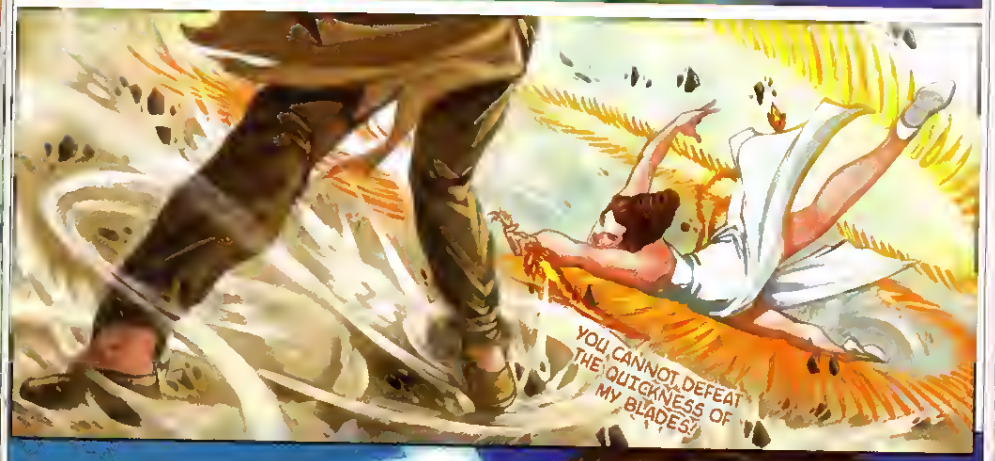
A WOUNDED BEAST IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN A HEALTHY ONE, AND THE DEATH OF EMOTIONLESS HAS DEEPLY AFFECTED COLD-BLOODED!
I DO NOT WANT TO DIRTY MY HANDS WITH THIS CRAZED BEAST, SO I WILL HOLD BACK FOR A BIT AND WAIT FOR A CLEAN STRIKE!
COLD BLOODED SUDDENLY PULLS BACK HIS ATTACK.
HE STOPPED! IS HE TOO TIRED TO CONTINUE?
WHEN FACING A POWERFUL ENEMY ALONE, YOUR BEST STRATEGY IS TO STAY CALM!
KNOWING HOW TO BIDE YOUR TIME CAN BE MORE POWERFUL THAN A QUICK ATTACK. ONE DAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE ESSENCE OF THE "SLOW" ATTACK.

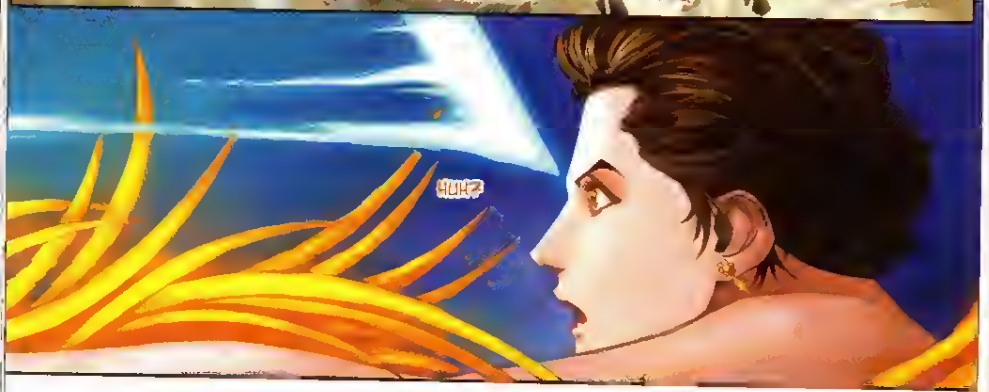
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE...
PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER, OR FACE CERTAIN DEATH!!

WHO ARE YOU FOOLING? YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO DIE!

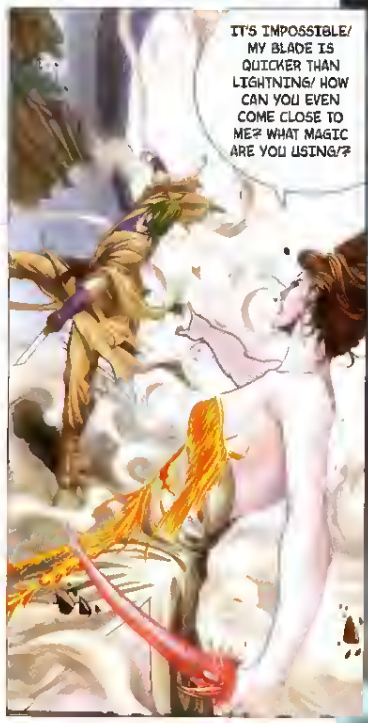
JUST AS COLD BLOODED IS ABOUT TO BE DICED, HE SLOWLY PUSHES HIS BROKEN SWORD FORWARD STRAIGHT TOWARDS BLOOD PHOENIX'S THROAT!

WH...WHAT IS THIS WEIRD STANCE?!

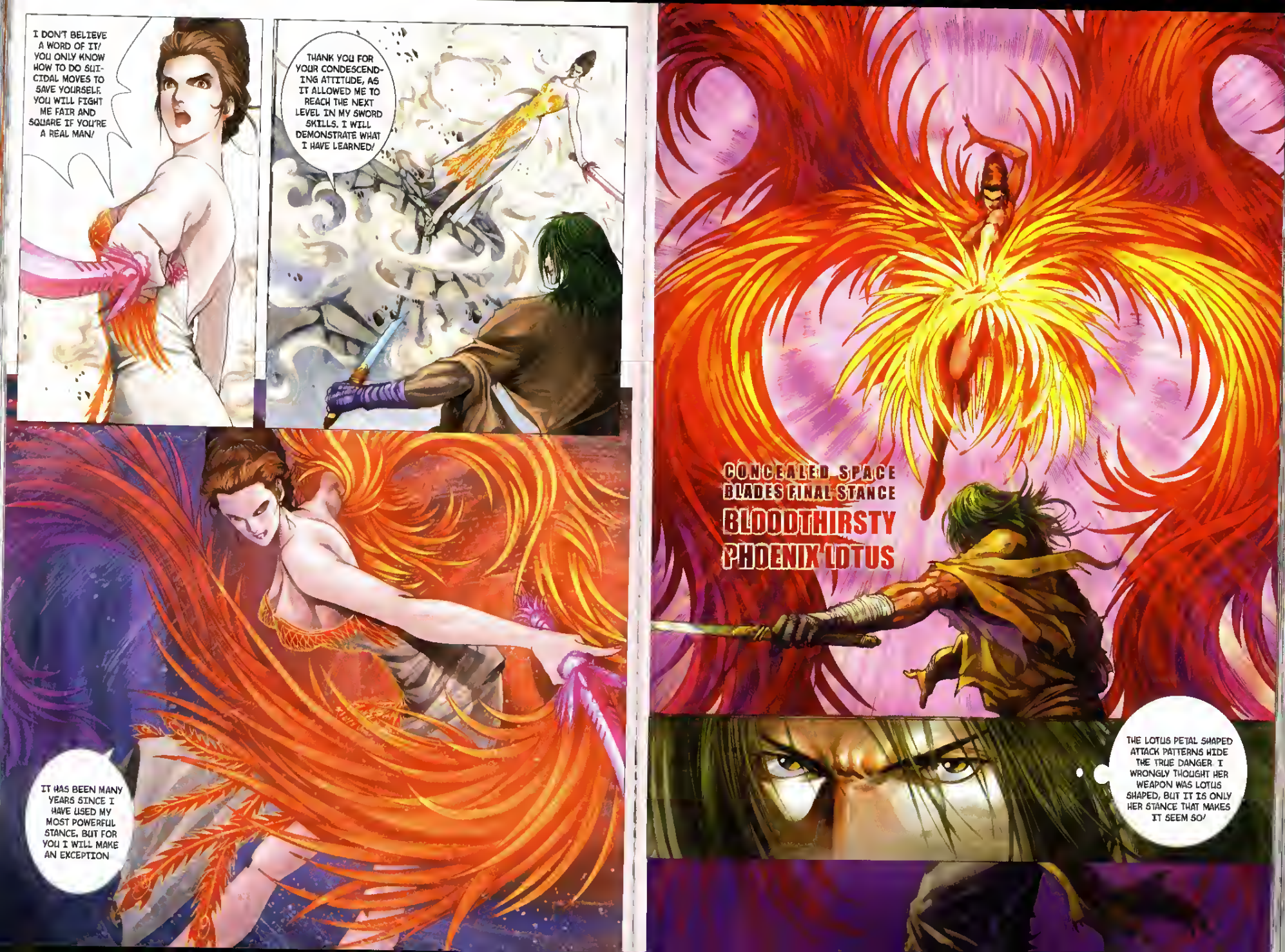

YOU CANNOT DEFEAT THE QUICKNESS OF MY BLADES!


HUH?

BLOOD PHOENIX TRADED THE SLICE TO HER LEGS FOR A MERE BLOW TO HER HEAD BY DODGING AT THE LAST MINUTE!
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW...?


IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MY BLADE IS QUICKER THAN LIGHTNING! HOW CAN YOU EVEN COME CLOSE TO ME? WHAT MAGIC ARE YOU USING!?

COLD BLOODED FINALLY UNDERSTANDS THROUGH HIS LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLES THE ESSENCE OF THE SLOW ATTACK IS NOT THE SPEED OF THE SWORD, BUT OF ONE'S HEART.
ONCE ONE ABANDONS THE PURSUIT FOR SPEED ONE CAN MORE ACCURATELY SEE THE WEAKNESS IN ANOTHER'S ATTACK AND UTILIZE SPEED WHERE IT
YOU ARE WRONG MY BLADE IS NOT SLOWER THAN YOURS.. IT IS YOUR HEART THAT IS SLOW!
THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF OVERCOMING QUICKNESS WITH THE SLOW AND STEADY!


I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT/ YOU ONLY KNOW HOW TO DO SUICIDAL MOVES TO SAVE YOURSELF. YOU WILL FIGHT ME FAIR AND SQUARE IF YOU'RE A REAL MAN/
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE, AS IT ALLOWED ME TO REACH THE NEXT LEVEL IN MY SWORD SKILLS. I WILL DEMONSTRATE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED/
IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE I HAVE USED MY MOST POWERFUL STANCE, BUT FOR YOU I WILL MAKE AN EXCEPTION
CONCEALED SPACE BLADES FINAL STANCE
BLOODTHIRSTY PHOENIX LOTUS
THE LOTUS PETAL SHAPED ATTACK PATTERNS HIDE THE TRUE DANGER. I WRONGLY THOUGHT HER WEAPON WAS LOTUS SHAPED, BUT IT IS ONLY HER STANCE THAT MAKES IT SEEM SO/

I SEE IT!

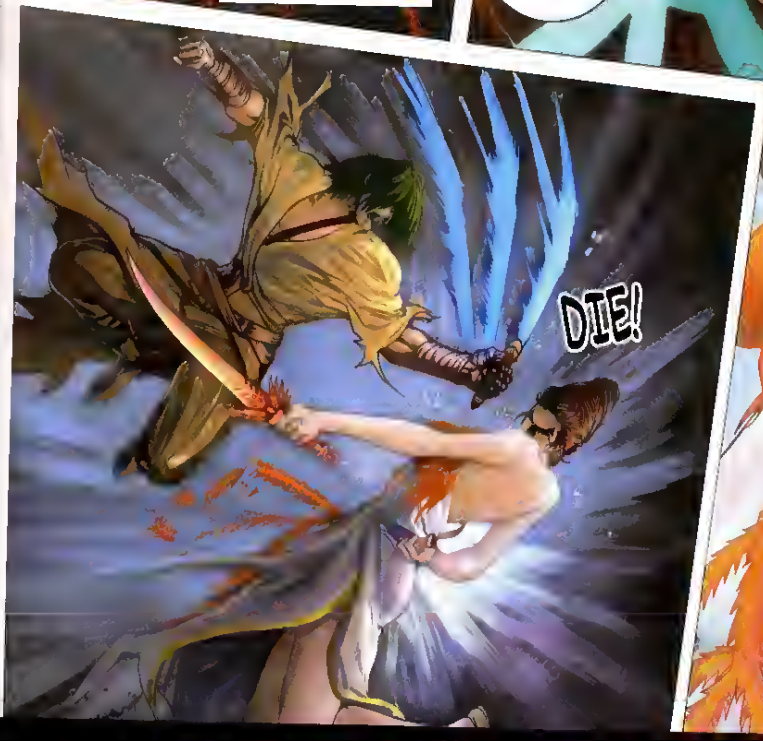
QUICK SWORD ONE STANCE
BRILLIANT EDGE

TURNING SWORD TIDAL WAVE
FINAL SEVEN STANCES!

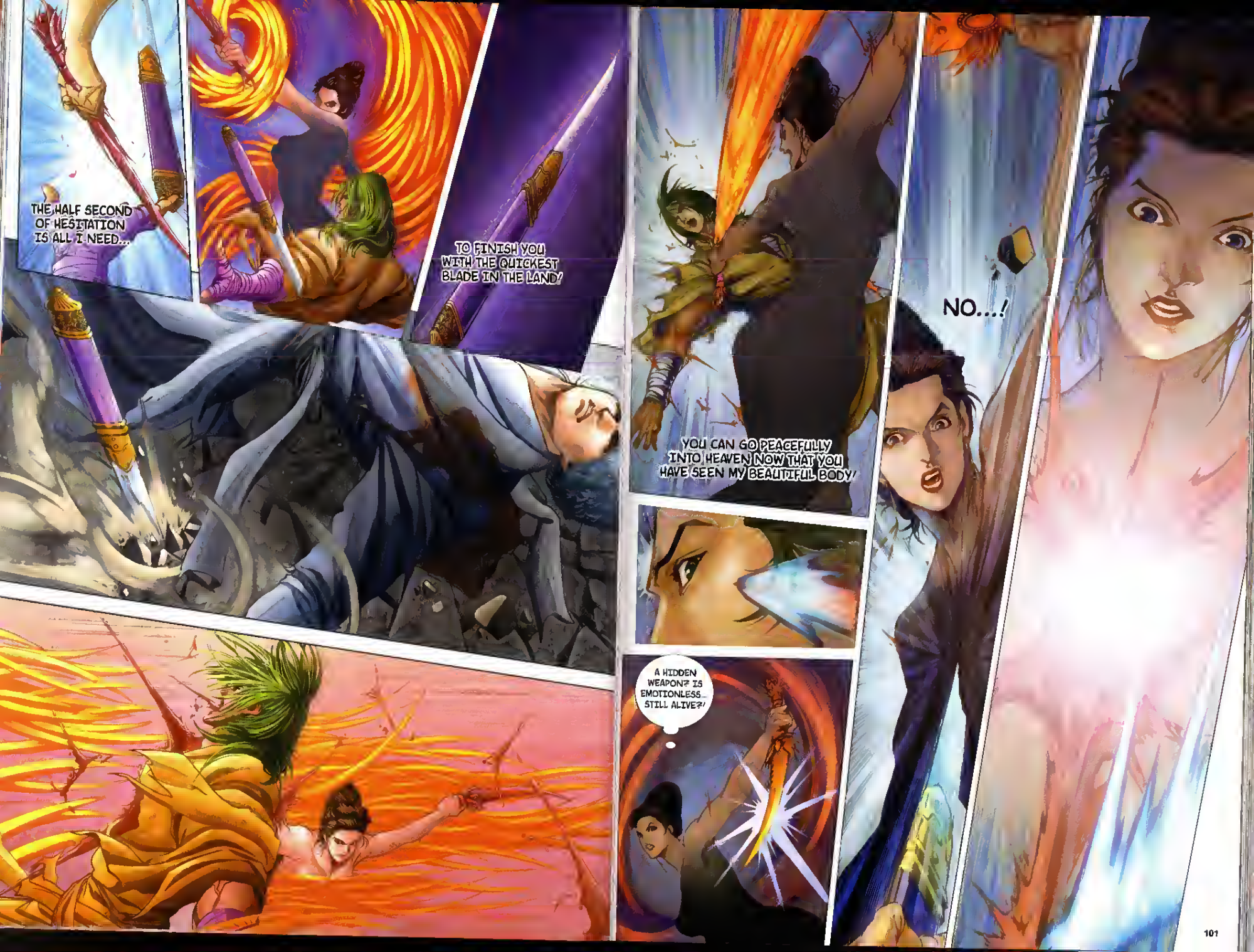
ONCE HE STRIKES, COLD BLOODED DOES NOT LET UP. SOON HIS OPPONENT IS BLEEDING FROM MANY WOUNDS. QUICKEST BLADE IN THE LAND, YOU ARE FINISHED!

AM.. I REALLY GOING TO DIE HERE...

NO! MY BLADE IS THE QUICK-EST! I HAVE TO RISK IT ALL NOW!

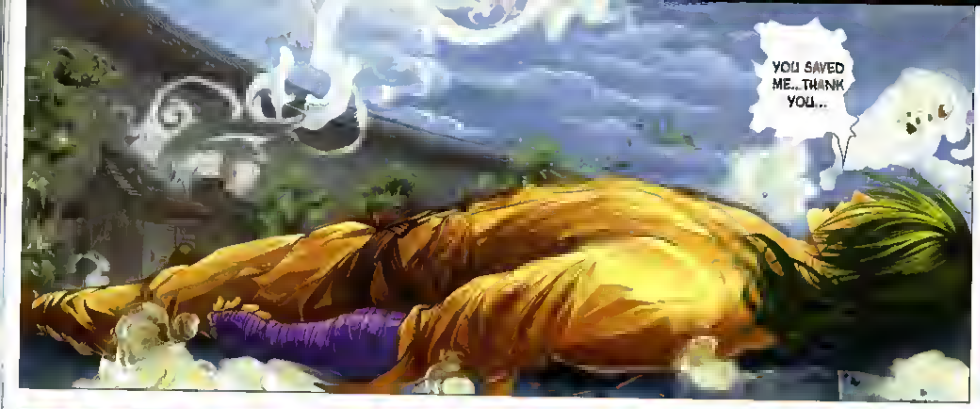

DIE!

AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, BLOOD PHOENIX USES HER FINAL TRICK. SHE STRIPS OFF HER ROBE AND REVEALS THE IMMACULATE BODY BENEATH. NO MAN CAN RESIST A LOOK. EVEN COLD BLOODED IS STUNNED!


THE HALF SECOND OF HESITATION IS ALL I NEED...
TO FINISH YOU WITH THE QUICKEST BLADE IN THE LAND!
YOU CAN GO PEACEFULLY INTO HEAVEN NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN MY BEAUTIFUL BODY!
NO...!
A HIDDEN WEAPON? IS EMOTIONLESS... STILL ALIVE?!

ICE
TIPPED
SWORD
HURK

WHAM
BLOOD PHOENIX FALLS INTO THE DIRTIEST PLACE IMAGINEABLE . THE OUT-HOUSE SHE DIES IN THE THROES OF DISGUST AND DISBELIEF.


YOU SAVED ME...THANK YOU...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I SAVED YOU FOR MY OWN SELFISH REASONS. YOU STILL... OWE ME... A DUEL .

COLD BLOODED KNOWS THAT THIS WAS BUT A SMALL VICTORY IN THE WAR, FOR THERE ARE STILL BATTLES RAGING...
PERHAPS NOW WE CAN DUEL IN HEAVEN...

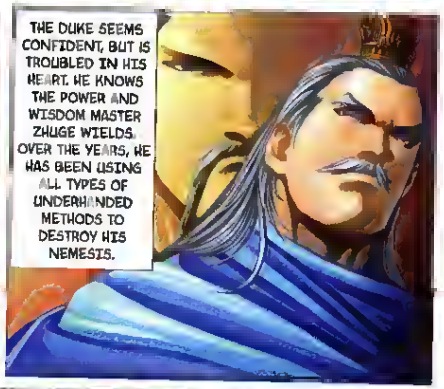
GOOD VS. EVIL, STRONGEST VS. STRONGEST!!

MASTER ZHUGE CLAIMED THAT JUST ONE OF HIS STUDENTS COULD TURN THE SITUATION AROUND. DUKE ZHU WU LOOKED ON IN SHOCK AS LIFE-SNATCHER STOOD BEFORE HIM.
HE IS MUCH TOO POWERFUL FOR ME TO DEFEAT. PERHAPS UNCLE HAS SOME PLAN UP HIS SLEEVE?

MASTER ZHUGE, NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU NOW.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE LOSING SIDE OF OUR ENCOUNTERS. YOU SEEM TO PREDICT OUR EVERY MOVE BEFORE WE EVEN PLAN THEM. BUT EVEN A WISE MAN MAKES MISTAKES AND YOU DID NOT KNOW THAT I HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN!

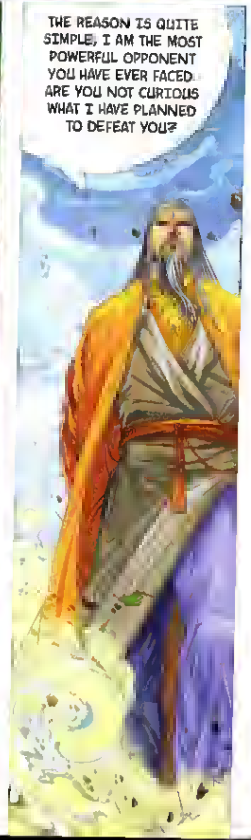
YOUR BACK-UP IS THIS DRUNKARD OF A CONSTABLE?


THE DUKE SEEMS CONFIDENT, BUT IS TROUBLED IN HIS HEART. HE KNOWS THE POWER AND WISDOM MASTER ZHUGE WIELDS. OVER THE YEARS, HE HAS BEEN USING ALL TYPES OF UNDERHANDED METHODS TO DESTROY HIS NEMESIS.

I AM SORRY THAT I CANNOT REVEAL MY SECRETS AT THIS TIME...

YOU KNOW MY PERSONALITY; VICTORY IS WITHIN MY GRASP. SO WHY SHOULD I GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TURN THINGS AROUND?

I JUST WISH TO SAY TWO THINGS TO MY STUDENT, AND I GUARANTEE IT WILL CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE.

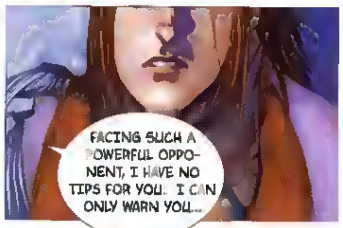

THE REASON IS QUITE SIMPLE; I AM THE MOST POWERFUL OPPONENT YOU HAVE EVER FACED. ARE YOU NOT CURIOUS WHAT I HAVE PLANNED TO DEFEAT YOU?

YOU KNOW ME QUITE WELL. I CANNOT TURN DOWN SUCH A TEMPTING OFFER.
I THANK YOU, DUKE!

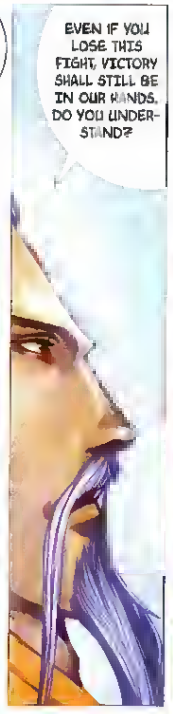
LIESHAN, COME HERE.

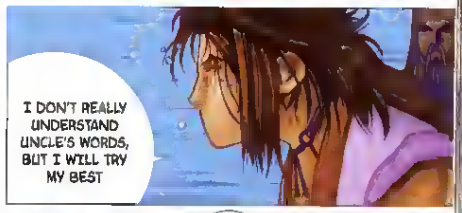
I AM THE STRONGEST ONE HERE. EVEN IF I GIVE YOU A SMALL ADVANTAGE, IT WON'T CREATE A MIRACLE. MASTER ZHUGE, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

UNCLE, YOU GOT ANY TIPS FOR ME?


FACING SUCH A POWERFUL OPPONENT, I HAVE NO TIPS FOR YOU. I CAN ONLY WARN YOU...

ARE YOU KIDDING?! THAT MEANS I HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING!

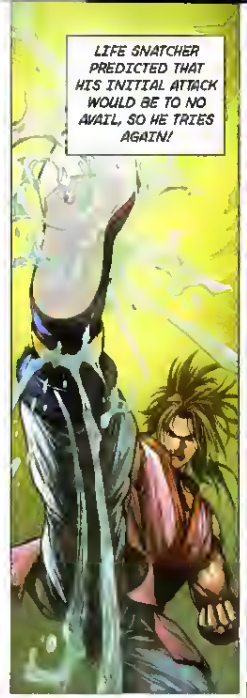

EVEN IF YOU LOSE THIS FIGHT, VICTORY SHALL STILL BE IN OUR HANDS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?


I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND UNCLE'S WORDS, BUT I WILL TRY MY BEST

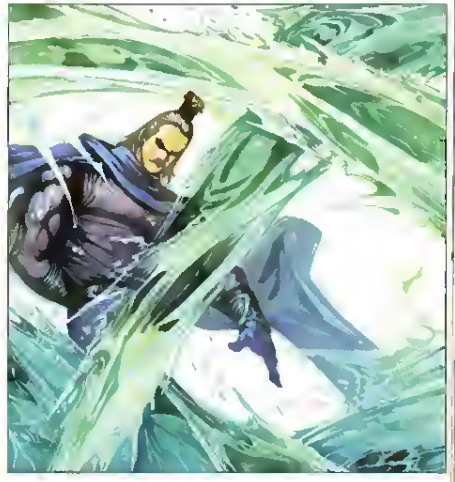
I AM READY, DUKE!
STOP WASTING TIME. SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

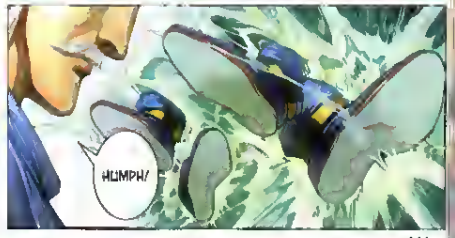
WELL THEN, DUKE...
HERE I COME!
SORRY!
THAT'S IT?
SNATCHING WIND

DUKE ZHU WU USES ONLY ONE ARM TO BLOCK THE ATTACK. SHOWING HIS SUPERIOR SKILLS AND OVERWHELMING ARROGANCE


LIFE SNATCHER PREDICTED THAT HIS INITIAL ATTACK WOULD BE TO NO AVAIL, SO HE TRIES AGAIN!

USING BOTH OF HIS LEGS, HE STRIKES OUT FULL FORCE!
SNATCHING WAVE

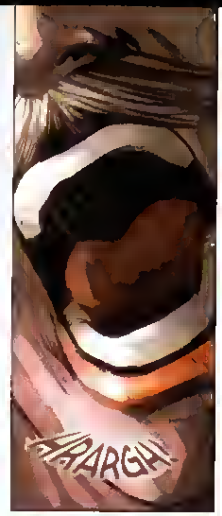


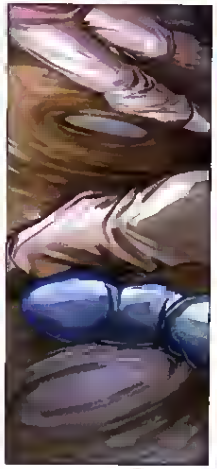

HUMPH!

HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO DEFEAT ME WITH SUCH MEAGER SKILLS?!
DUKE ZHU WU'S SEEMINGLY SIMPLE STANCE CONTAINS ENORMOUS POWER, BLASTING LIFE SNATCHER BACK!
WHAT STRONG CHI! HE IS EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN I IMAGINED!

I HAVE NO MORE TIME TO WASTE! YOUR PATHETIC SKILLS WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU!
TAICHI FEINT PALMS
INFINITE SOURCE

DUKE ZHU WU RETALIATED IMMEDIATELY, BUT HE CHOSE TO USE THE MOST COMMON OF THE WUDANG PALM FORMS.
JUST AS I SUSPECTED ..THIS GAME IS TURNING AROUND/

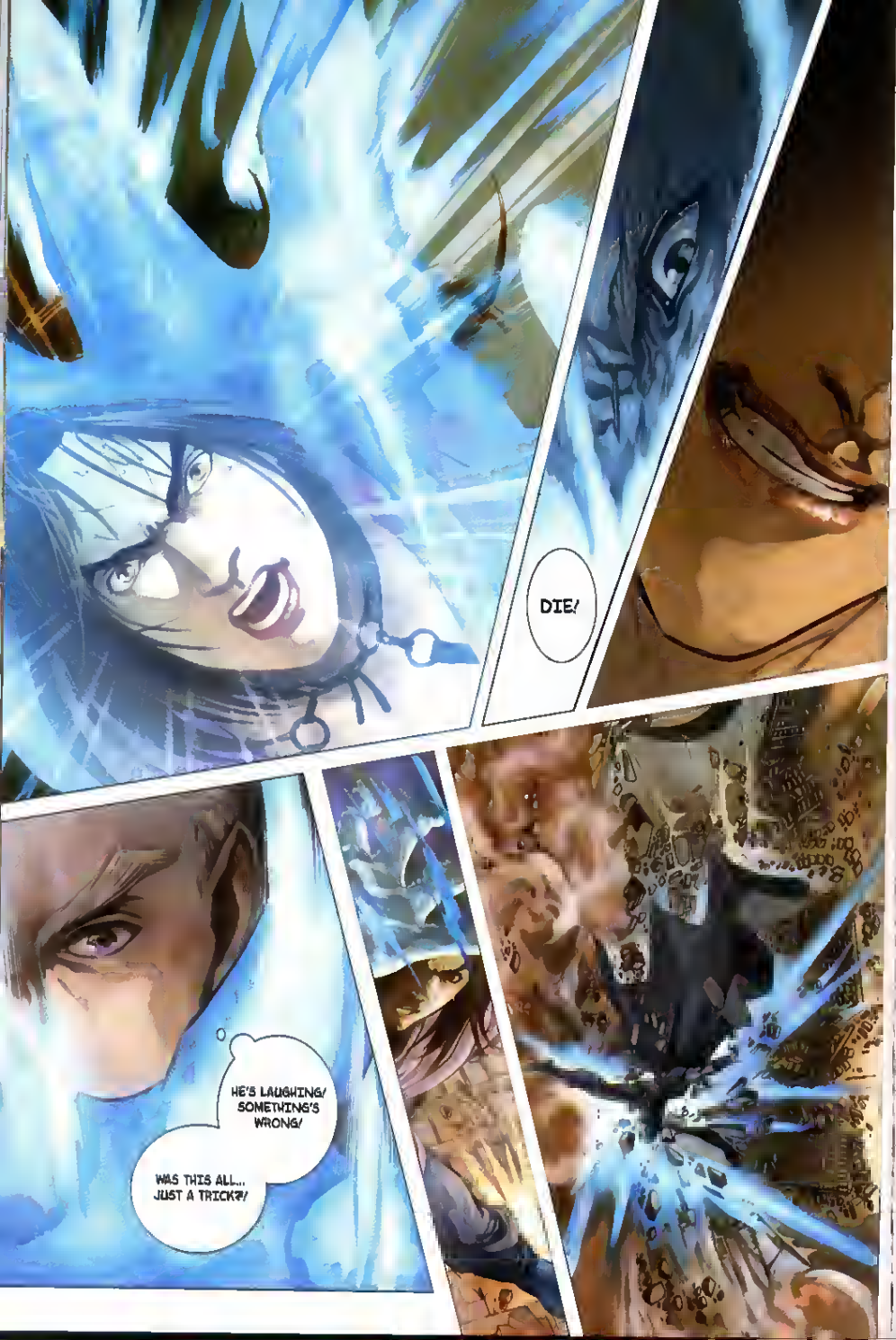

ARARGH



SNATCHING SHADOW!

YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE/

SNATCHING LIGHTNING
BOOM
FIGHTING WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH AND TECHNIQUE, LIFE SNATCHER IS STILL NO MATCH FOR DUKE ZHU WU!
MASTER ZHUGE, YOUR LAST, DESPERATE GAMBIT DISAPPOINTS ME. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE OF A CHALLENGE!
HOW DARE YOU TOY WITH ME! DIE!
SPRING LIGHTNING RUDE AWAKENING
THIS IS IT, LIESHAN ..YOU HAVE TO HOLD ON!


DIE!
HE'S LAUGHING! SOMETHING'S WRONG!
WAS THIS ALL... JUST A TRICK?!

A MOMENT'S HESITATION BY THE DUKE GIVES LIFE SNATCHER THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE TO SAFETY!
WHY DID HE WASTE SUCH A GOOD CHANCE?
THE DUKE ACTS TOUGH, BUT HE IS REALLY AFRAID THAT WE STILL HAVE SOME TRICK UP OUR SLEEVES!
LIESHAN'S QUICK THINKING AVERTED POSSIBLE DISASTER...VERY GOOD!
MASTER ZHUGE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH LIFE SNATCHER'S STRENGTHS. TOGETHER, THE TWO OF THEM PLAY A SUBTLE GAME OF PSYCHOLOGY WRECKING THE DUKE'S CONCENTRATION AND CASTING DOUBT INTO HIS
GLOAT ALL YOU WANT!

THE DUKE QUICKLY SEES THROUGH THEIR PLOY AND HIS ANGER BOILS OVER!
LUCK WON'T PROTECT YOU FOREVER. YOU WILL JUST DIE A MORE GRUESOME DEATH!

IN THE OTHER BATTLE SIMA IS PREPARING HIS FINAL STRIKE A GIANT BALL OF BLACK CHI SWOOPS TOWARD IRON HANDS!
BEFORE THE CHI EVEN COMES CLOSE AN EVIL FEELING OF DEATH APPROACHES HIM. SIMA LIVES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF DEATH!
HIS ENTHUSIASM IS MIND-BOGGLING! HE TRULY IS INSANE!

IRON HANDS, WE ARE BOTH INJURED AND TIRED NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME THIS WILL BE OUR LAST ROUND!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE OUTCOME AS LONG AS I CAN TAKE YOU IN AND GIVE YOUR VICTIMS THE JUSTICE THEY DESERVE!

YOU STUBBORN IDIOT! IT SEEMS THAT I CANNOT ANGER YOU INTO KILLING ME AND THEREFORE...

THERE IS NO VALUE TO YOUR EXISTENCE, DISAPPEAR!

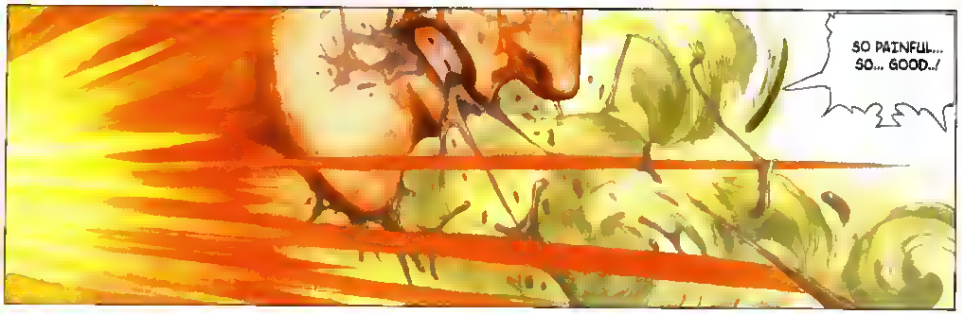
10 MILES SHOCK THUNDER

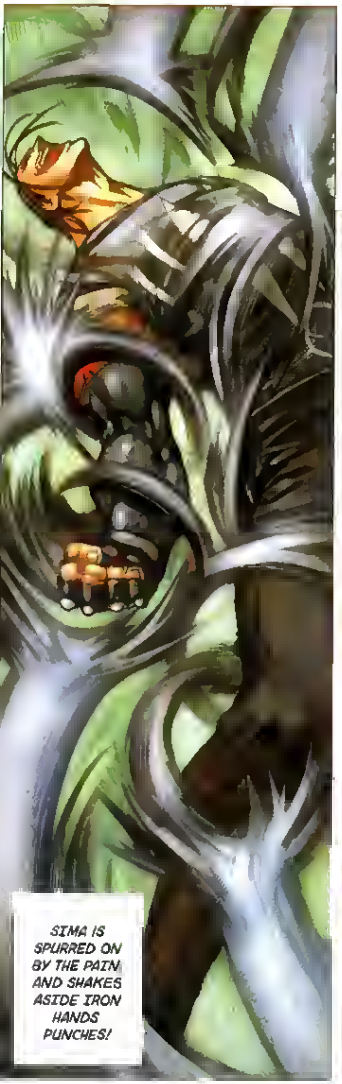
THE INSTANT THESE TWO TREMENDOUS FORCES COLLIDE, A MYSTERIOUS POWER SEEPS LIKE MERCURY INTO EVERY PORE ON IRON HANDS' ARMS...
A NIGHTMARISH FEELING DESCENDS-EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE-LULLING IRON HANDS TO LOSE HIS BATTLE RESOLVE, AND EMBRACE THE JOYS OF ETERNAL SLEEP!
HA!

WHILE IRON HANDS RELAXES SIMA GATHERS ALL HIS STRENGTH FOR A SINGLE STRIKE!
WH-WHAT JUST HAP-PENED? IT'S LIKE I WAS HYPNO-TIZED...
KRAAK
EVEN IF I SURVIVE ANOTHER ROUND, I WON'T LIVE LONG LIKE THIS I HAVE TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
WILL THE GREATLY-WEAK-ENED SIMA'S PUNCH BE ENOUGH TO KILL IRON HANDS?!

TEMPER FINAL STANCE
BARE HANDS POWER FIST
THE FINAL STANCE IS TRULY POWERFUL, BUT ALSO COMPLETELY DRAINS THE USER'S ENERGY. AS HIS LIFE HANGS IN THE BAL-ANCE, IRON HANDS RESORTS TO HIS LAST ATTACK!

SUNDERING
HEAVEN
AND EARTH

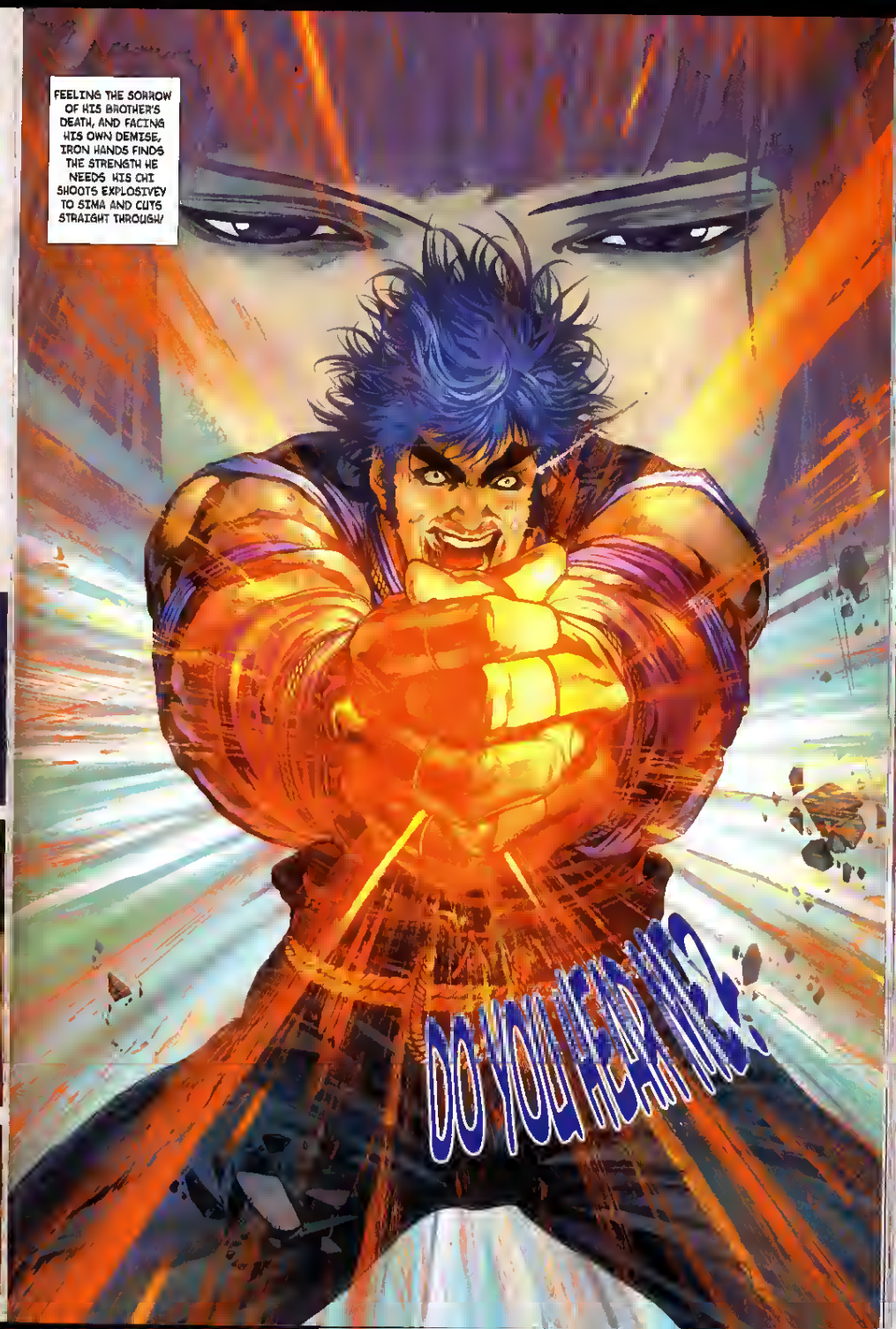

SO PAINFUL... SO... GOOD../


SIMA IS SPURRED ON BY THE PAIN, AND SHAKES ASIDE IRON HANDS PUNCHES!

THANK YOU FRIEND, FOR GIVING ME SUCH AN EXCITING FEELING, BUT TRY HARDER IF YOU ARE A TRUE FRIEND, AND PROLONG MY HAPPINESS A WHILE LONGER. HAHAHA...
SIMA'S INSANITY GROWS AND HIS POWER SEEMS TO INCREASE. HIS CHI ROARS LIKE A DARK BEAST OF DEATH TOWARDS IRON HANDS!

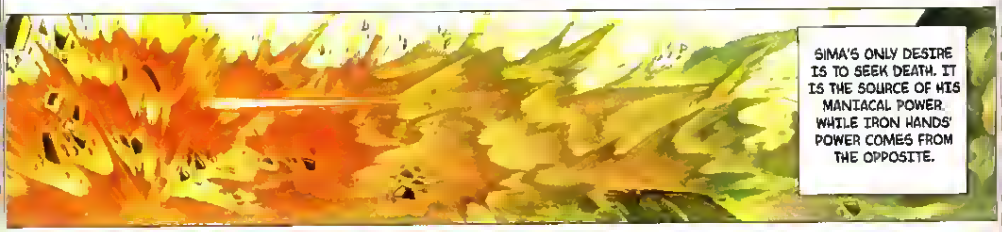
THE GREATER THE PAIN, THE MORE POWERFUL AND EXCITED SIMA GROWS. IRON HANDS CAN ONLY TRY TO DEFEND WITH ALL HIS MIGHT/
AT THE LIMITS OF HIS STRENGTH, IRON HANDS IS REPEATEDLY FORCED BACK/
COLD BLOODED AND BAIYU ZHOU LAY NEARBY, BUT THE INJURIES THEY SUSTAINED RENDER THEM IMMOBILE.

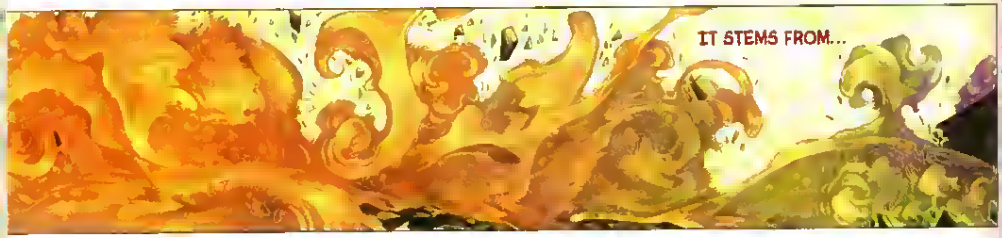
DAMN YOU, IRON HANDS! WHERE DID ALL YOUR POWERS GO? HURRY AND KILL ME!
WHY... HOW CAN SUCH A MANIAC BE SO POWERFUL? CAN DEATH REALLY FORCE OUT ONE'S GREATEST POTENTIAL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I AM GOING TO BE KILLED BY THIS PSYCHOPATH... HOW CAN THIS BE?!
AM I TOO IGNORANT OR SIMPLE? I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS SO EXCITING ABOUT DEATH. DEATH TO ME IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH SADNESS AND REGRETS!
WHEN THESE REGRETS APPEAR, THEY FILL YOU WITH SADNESS, JUST LIKE THE DEATH OF BIG BROTHER!
MY BROTHER, MY FRIEND...
YOU HAVE LEFT ME...
BUT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS...


FEELING THE SORROW OF HIS BROTHER'S DEATH, AND FACING HIS OWN DEMISE, IRON HANDS FINDS THE STRENGTH HE NEEDS. HIS CHI SHOOTS EXPLOSIVEY TO SIMA AND CUTS STRAIGHT THROUGH!
DO YOU HEAR ME?

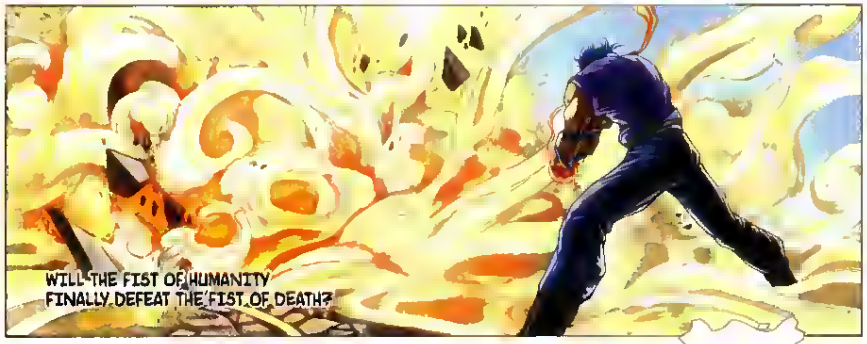
IRON HANDS DID NOT KNOW HOW HE WAS ABLE TO COMBINE HIS FEAR, ANGER, AND SADNESS INTO THIS LAST DESPERATE STRIKE...

A FORCE... THAT COUNTERS SIMA'S OBSESSION WITH DEATH!


SIMA'S ONLY DESIRE IS TO SEEK DEATH. IT IS THE SOURCE OF HIS MANIACAL POWER. WHILE IRON HANDS' POWER COMES FROM THE OPOSITE.


IT STEMS FROM...

HA...
HA...
HA.....
FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE!!

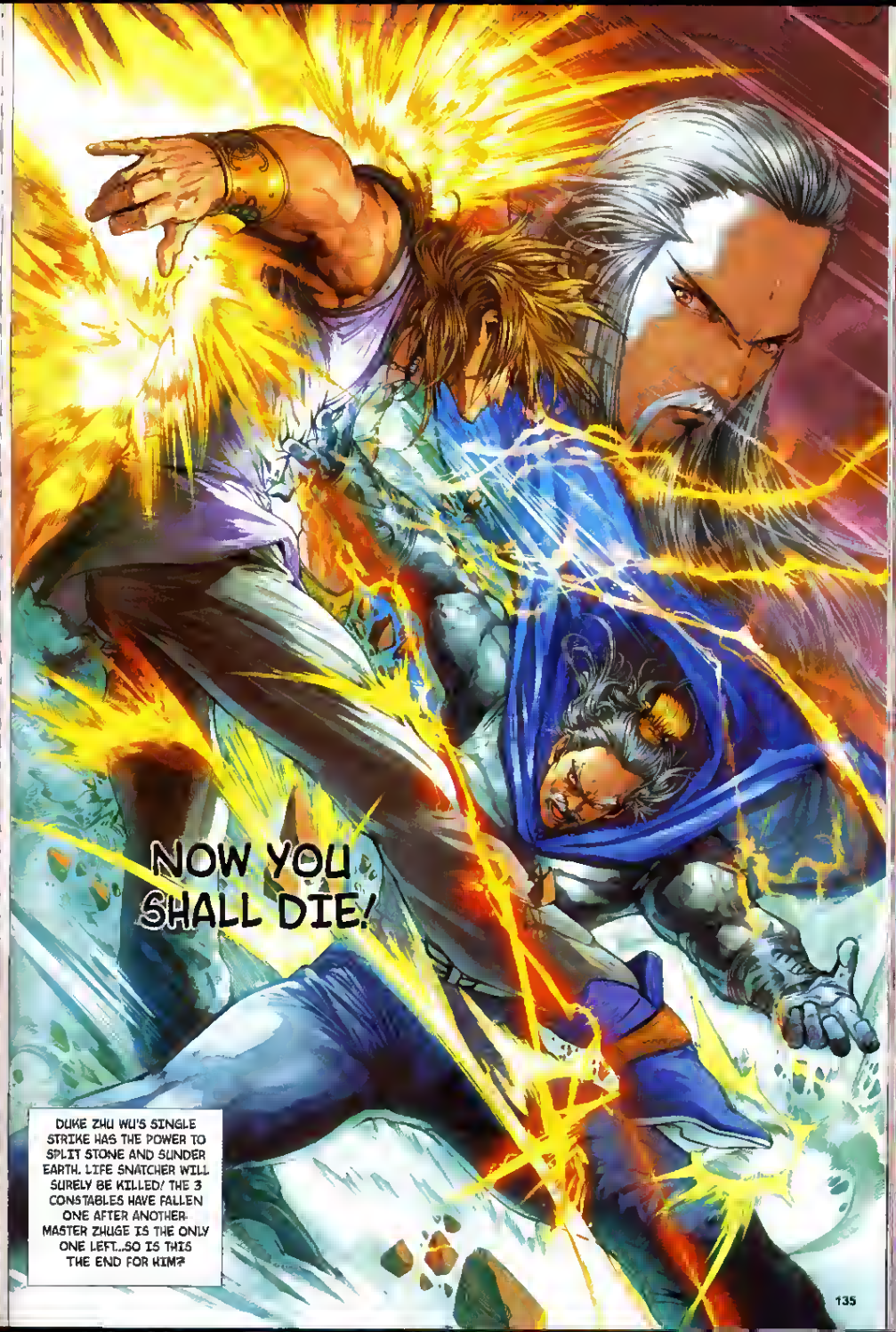

WILL THE FIST OF HUMANITY FINALLY DEFEAT THE FIST OF DEATH?

AH.. DAMN YOU IRON HANDS, DAMN YOU ..

YOU ALMOST... ALMOST GOT ME... YET YOU'VE DISAPPOINTED ME ONCE MORE...

DIE! DIE!!

MEANWHILE, THE DUKE PRESSES HIS ATTACKS, ANGERED BY THE FACT THAT HE FELL FOR THEIR SIMPLE TRICKS. LIFE SNATCHER CAN BARELY DEFEND HIMSELF.
WE'VE TRADED MORE THAN TWENTY BLOWS, AND THIS LITTLE CONSTABLE IS SO WEAK. WHAT IS MASTER ZHUGE'S PLANNING?
DUKE ZHU WU IS SO POWERFUL! IT TAKES EVERYTHING I'VE GOT JUST TO DEFEND. I HAVE NO CHANCE FOR OFFENSE, SO WHAT DO UNCLE'S WORDS MEAN?
MASTER ZHUGE TOLD LIFE SNATCHER TO FOCUS ON DEFENSE; TO DODGE AND AVOID TAKING THE DUKE HEAD ON, BUT THIS WILL ONLY PROLONG LIFE SNATCHER'S LIFE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER. IT IS DOING NOTHING TO STOP DUKE ZHU WU!
THAT OLD BASTARD IS SNEAKY. I DON'T WANT IT TO END UP LIKE LAST TIME!
DUKE ZHU WU RECALLS HIS FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HE WAS THE ONE WHO PRETENDED TO BE COLD BLOODED!
THIS IS THE END OF OUR GAME!


NOW YOU SHALL DIE!
DUKE ZHU WU'S SINGLE STRIKE HAS THE POWER TO SPLIT STONE AND SUNDER EARTH. LIFE SNATCHER WILL SURELY BE KILLED! THE 3 CONSTABLES HAVE FALLEN ONE AFTER ANOTHER. MASTER ZHUGE IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT...SO IS THIS THE END FOR HIM?

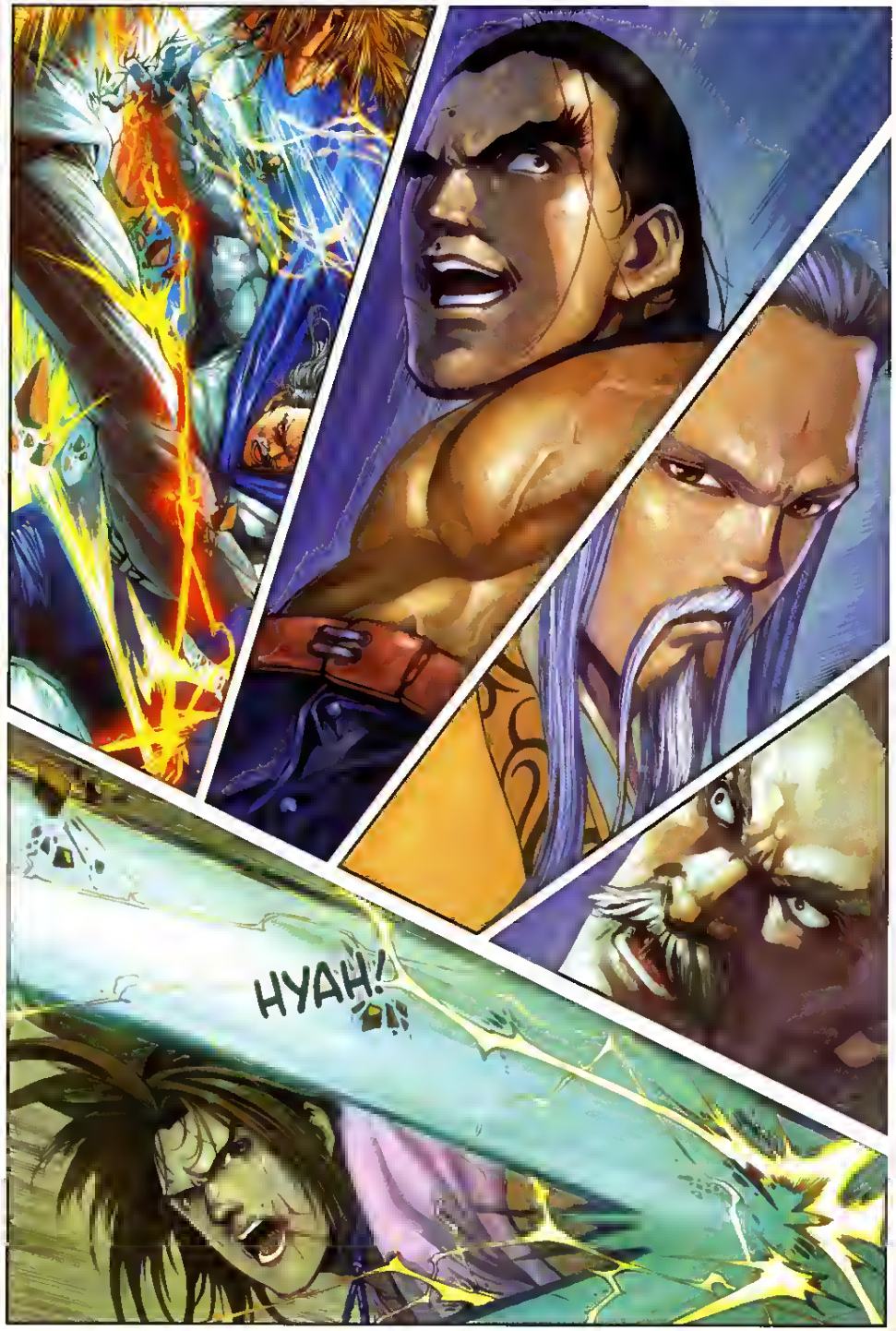
YOU ARE ALMOST AS TENACIOUS AS ME!
IRON HANDS DELIVERED HIS LAST STRIKE TO SIMA, BUT WAS UNABLE TO DEFEAT HIM..
I WILL... NEVER REST... UNTIL I HAVE CAPTURED YOU!

WITH HIS LIFE HANGING BY A THREAD, IRON HANDS WAS ABLE TO HARNESS HIS WILL TO LIVE AND SADNESS FOR HIS PASSING BROTHER INTO AN POWERFUL FIST STRIKE, PUSHING SIMA BACK...
ALMOST TURNING THE SITUATION AROUND, IRON HANDS NOW HAS NO STRENGTH TO CONTINUE/ HE WILL BE KILLED BY SIMA/
IRON HANDS GAVE IT HIS ALL, BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH, AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE HE CAN DO AT THE MOMENT.

THIS IS FATE, YOU USELESS IDIOT, AND YOU ARE DOOMED TO FAIL. ALLOW ME TO SPEED YOU ON YOUR LAST JOURNEY/

DON'T COME BACK AROUND AGAIN/

A LOUD SOUND DISTRACTS SIMA FROM DELIVERING HIS KILLING BLOW....


HYAH!

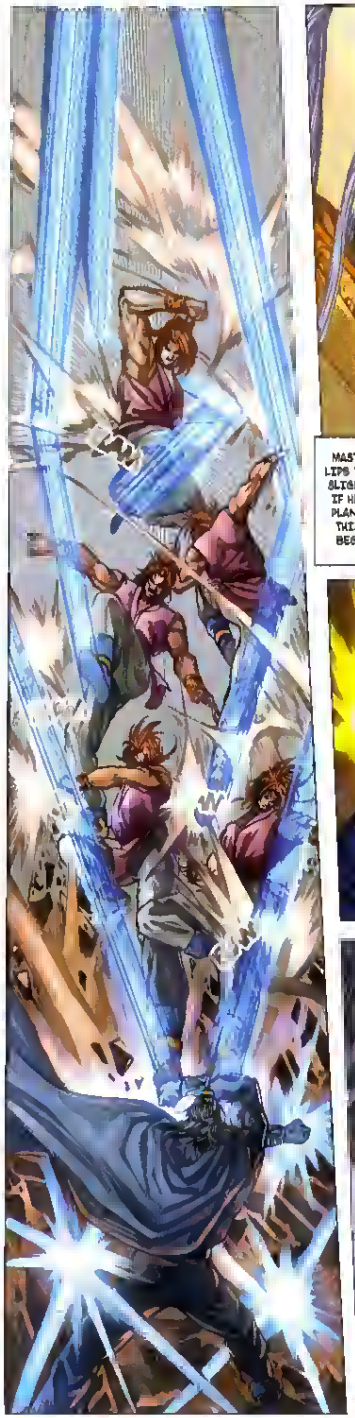
LIFE SNATCHER DOES NOT DIE! INSTEAD, HE STRIKES BACK AT DUKE ZHU WU, LANDING A CRITICAL BLOW!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, THE DUKE IS WOUNDED!

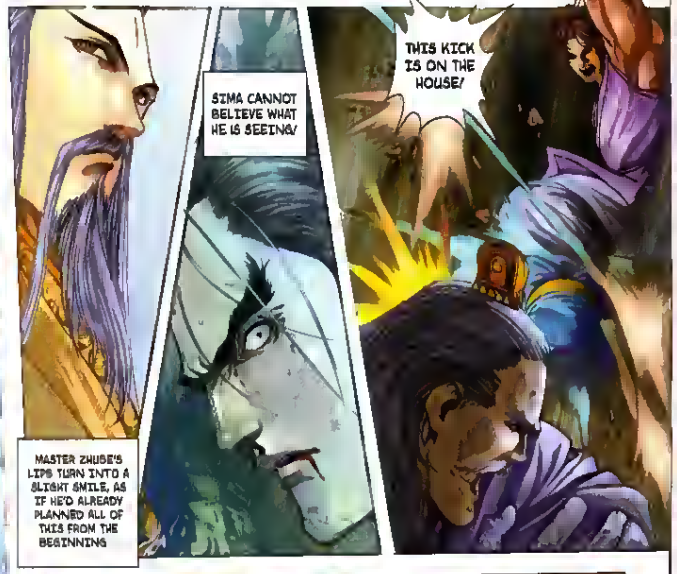
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL HIS POWER? I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER... NOW'S MY CHANCE TO DEFEAT HIM!
LIFE SNATCHER HAS BEEN DEFENDING HIMSELF ONLY. AND NOW THAT HE HAS THIS OPPORTUNITY HE VENTS ALL OF HIS PENT-UP ANGER AND FRUSTRATION INTO HIS STRIKES. HE'S FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT MASTER ZHUGE'S ADVICE AND BEGINS GIVING THE DUKE A THOROUGH POUNDING!
WHY...HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

KONG DONG SECT
SPLITTING MOUNTAIN HANDS

AT FIRST THEY SEEM EVENLY MATCHED, BUT BY THE THIRD STANCE, DUKE ZHU WU IS PUSHED BACK THREE STEPS!

YOU ARE GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE! I'M GONNA USE YOU FOR TARGET PRACTICE!
IS THIS ALL AN ILLUSION?! MY CHI... IT'S DISSIPATING!



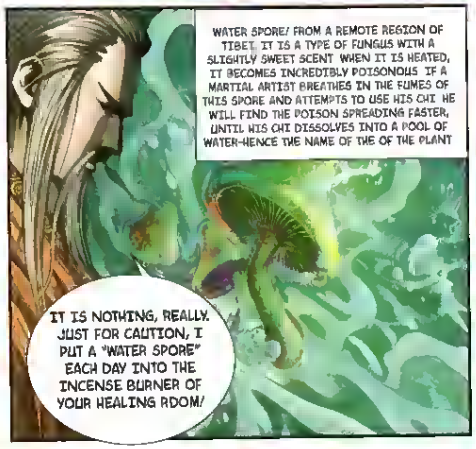

SIMA CANNOT BELIEVE WHAT HE IS SEEING!
THIS KICK IS ON THE HOUSE!
MASTER ZHUGE'S LIPS TURN INTO A SLIGHT SMILE, AS IF HE'D ALREADY PLANNED ALL OF THIS FROM THE BEGINNING

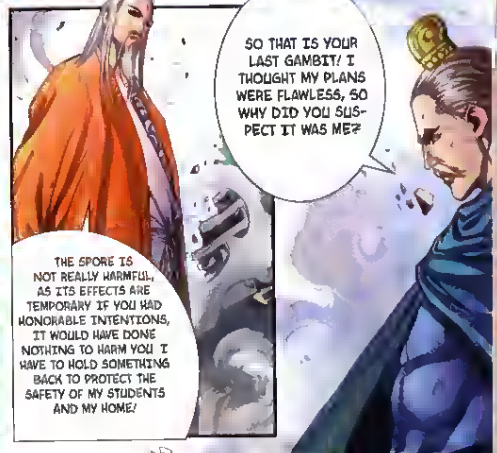
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW CAN THE BOSS BE LOSING TO A MERE CONSTABLE?!

DUKE ZHU WU MANAGES TO PUSH HIMSELF TO A STANDING POSITION. HIS ARROGANCE ALL BUT VANISHED!

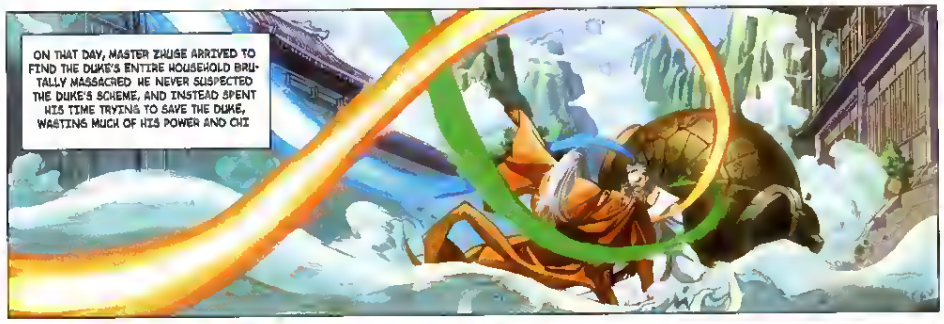
THERE ARE NO SURE VICTORIES IN LIFE. NOW DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT UNCLE HAD PROPHESIZED?

ZHUGE... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME!?


WATER SPORE! FROM A REMOTE REGION OF TIBET. IT IS A TYPE OF FUNGUS WITH A SLIGHTLY SWEET SCENT. WHEN IT IS HEATED, IT BECOMES INCREDIBLY POISONOUS. IF A MARTIAL ARTIST BREATHES IN THE FUMES OF THIS SPORE AND ATTEMPTS TO USE HIS CHI, HE WILL FIND THE POISON SPREADING FASTER, UNTIL HIS CHI DISSOLVES INTO A POOL OF WATER-HENCE THE NAME OF THE OF THE PLANT
IT IS NOTHING, REALLY. JUST FOR CAUTION, I PUT A "WATER SPORE" EACH DAY INTO THE INCENSE BURNER OF YOUR HEALING ROOM!


SO THAT IS YOUR LAST GAMBIT! I THOUGHT MY PLANS WERE FLAWLESS, SO WHY DID YOU SUSPECT IT WAS ME?
THE SPORE IS NOT REALLY HARMFUL, AS ITS EFFECTS ARE TEMPORARY IF YOU HAD HONORABLE INTENTIONS. IT WOULD HAVE DONE NOTHING TO HARM YOU. I HAVE TO HOLD SOMETHING BACK TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF MY STUDENTS AND MY HOME!

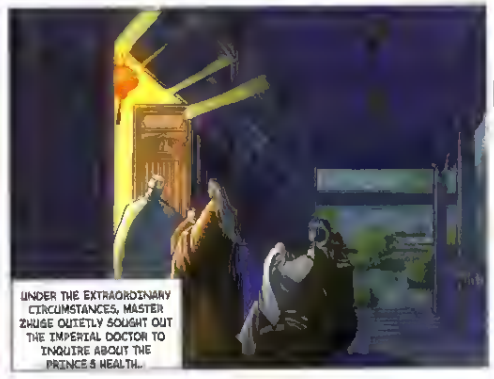
TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS, YOU WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY AND CLAN. IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE NOT TRULY A VICTIM, HOWEVER...
NO MATTER HOW COMPLEX YOUR PLANS, HOW CRUEL YOUR INTENTIONS, EVERYONE HAS A WEAKNESS. WE ALL GROW OLD... AND WILL ONE DAY FACE OUR OWN DEATH. YOU WORRIED THAT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE A SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE YOU HAVE PLOTTED SO LONG TO GAIN!
IT WAS MY SON THAT GAVE IT AWAY?!
THAT IS ONLY HALF TRUE. MORE ACCURATELY, THE ONE WE FOUND DEAD IN YOUR HOME THAT DAY WAS NOT YOUR REAL SON!

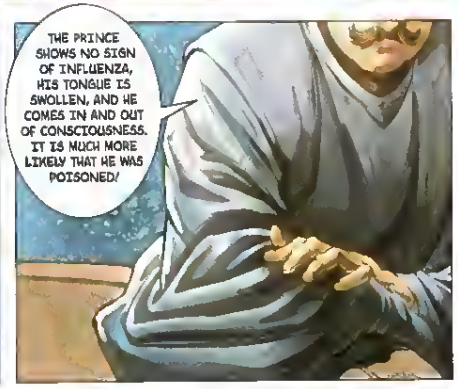

ON THAT DAY, MASTER ZHUGE ARRIVED TO FIND THE DUKE'S ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD BRUTALLY MASSACRED. HE NEVER SUSPECTED THE DUKE'S SCHEME, AND INSTEAD SPENT HIS TIME TRYING TO SAVE THE DUKE, WASTING MUCH OF HIS POWER AND CHI

THEN MASTER ZHUGE SUMMONED THE IMPERIAL DOCTOR TO HEAL THE DUKE, BUT THE DOCTOR WAS CALLED AWAY TO TEND A SUDDEN ILLNESS OF THE PRINCE. THE TIMING COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE COINCIDENTAL, AND MASTER ZHUGE BECAME SUSPICIOUS.

BUT THE FINAL CLUE CAME FROM EMOTIONLESS'S NEWS.

MANY YEARS AGO, DUKE ZHU WU'S SON HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH EMOTIONLESS. HIS ARM WAS BROKEN AND THE BONES DAMAGED
UPON CLOSER EXAMINATION, THE BODY FOUND AT THE DUKE'S HOME SHOWED NO SIGNS OF THE OLD INJURY!

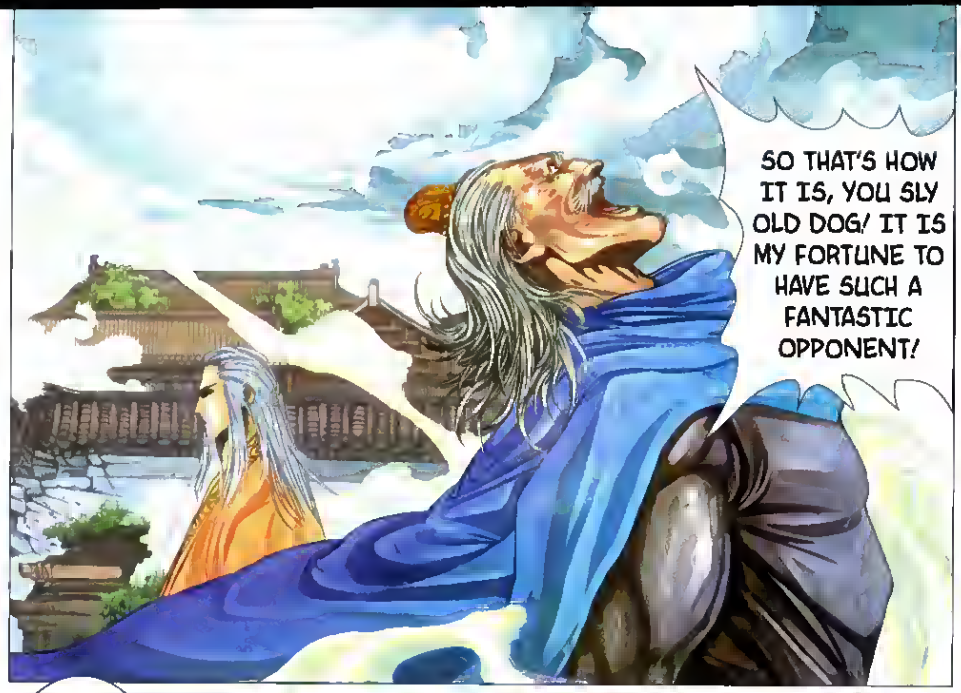

UNDER THE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, MASTER ZHUGE QUIETLY SOUGHT OUT THE IMPERIAL DOCTOR TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE PRINCE'S HEALTH.

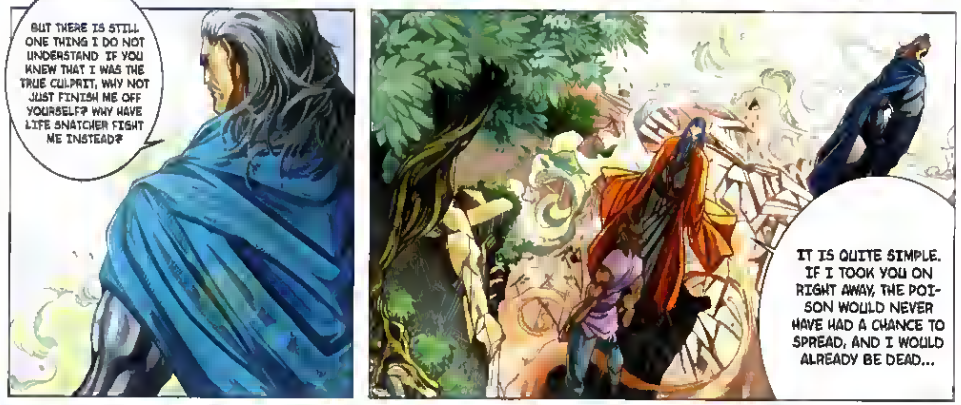

THE PRINCE SHOWS NO SIGN OF INFLUENZA, HIS TONGUE IS SWOLLEN, AND HE COMES IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS. IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT HE WAS POISONED!

POI-SONED?
CORRECT, BUT THE POISON DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE FATAL. IT IS VERY POTENT WHEN IT ACTS UP AND TAKE A LONG TIME TO ADMINIS-TER. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
THAT IS CE..TAINLY ONE WAY TO PREVENT THE IMPERIAL DOCTOR FROM COMING TO SOMEBODY'S AID/
WHO CAN SNEAK INTO THE ROYAL PALACE ON A DAILY BASIS TO POISON THE PRINCE? HE MUST BE VERY POWERFUL. HE MUST BE THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE SCENES/
THIS MASTERMIND'S PLOT-TING IS INCREDIBLE. HE KNEW THAT THE IMPERIAL DOCTOR WAS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO SAVE THE DUKE, SO TO PREVENT THAT HE POISONED THE PRINCE.
AT THIS RATE, THE DUKE WILL SURELY DIE/ UNLESS...
UNCLE, YOU ARE WILLING TO SACRI-FICE YOUR CHI TO KEEP THE DUKE ALIVE, UNTIL THE IMPERIAL DOCTOR IS AVAILABLE.
IF WE WAIT THAT LONG, EVEN IF THE IMPERIAL DOCTOR COULD SAVE THE DUKE, I WOULD BE COM-PLETELY DRAINED/
UNLESS THE MAS-TERMIND IS NOT REALLY AFTER THE DUKE, AND IS AFTER YOU INSTEAD, UNCLE?

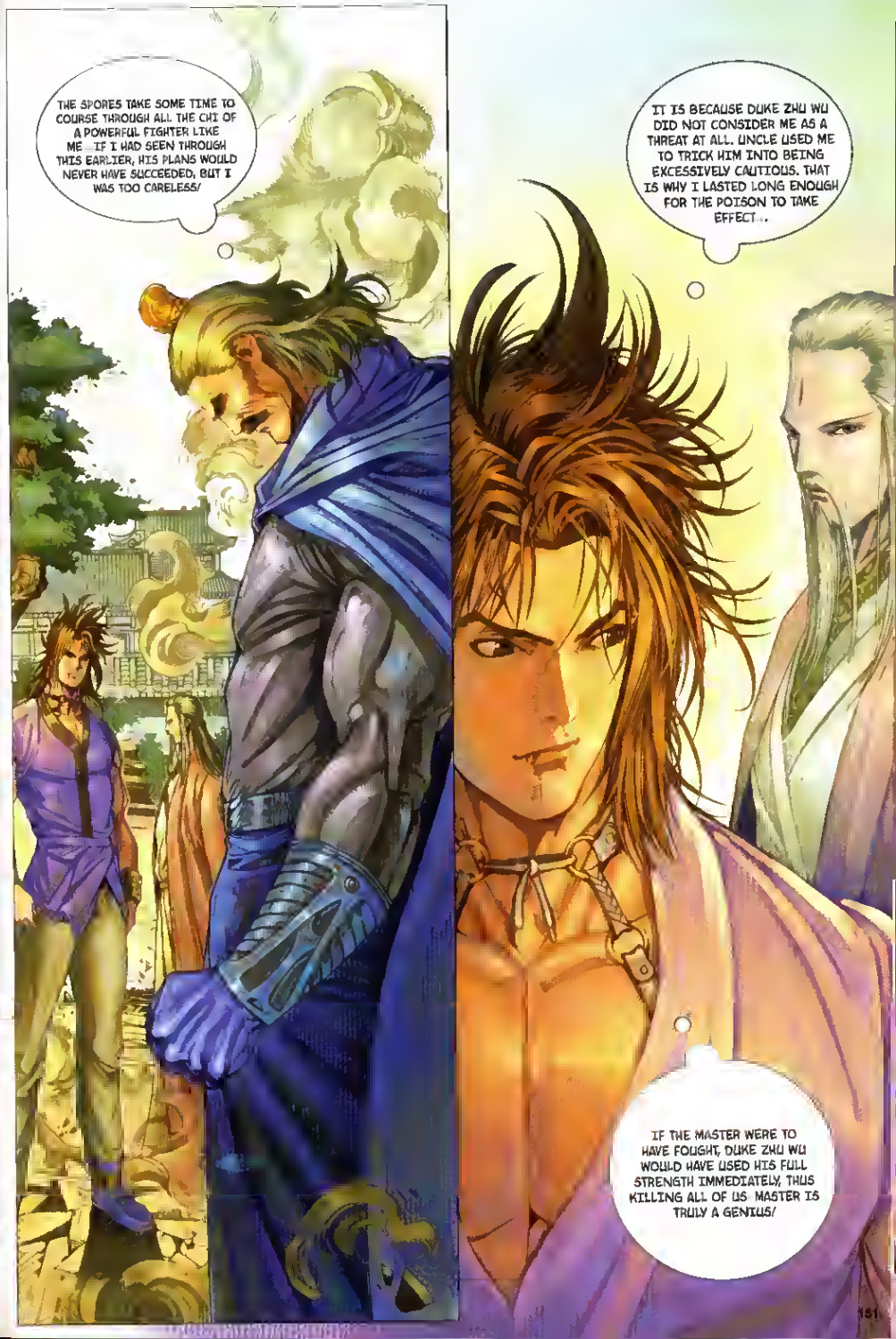
THAT IS ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DUKE'S SON? HE IS NOT REALLY DEAD.
HE IS THE MOST LIKELY CULPRIT, BUT MANY YEARS AGO I FOUGHT HIM
EVEN THOSE 13 CRIMINALS ARE SMARTER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN HE. IT CANNOT BE HIM!
IF NOT THE DUKE'S SON, THEN WHO? WHO MURDERED THE DUKE'S FAMILY?
WHY WOULD THEY SPARE THE DUKE'S SON, AND ATTEMPT TO COVER UP THIS CLUE?
THE CULPRIT IS DUKE ZHU WU! EVEN THE MOST AMBITIOUS AND CRUEL PARENT STILL HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS HEART FOR HIS ONLY SON. THE DUKE IS ALREADY GETTING OLD. HE NEEDS HIS SON TO CONTINUE HIS DYNASTY. IF HIS SON WERE TO DIE, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO ONE TO SUCCEED HIM
THE DUKE MUST CONVINCE US THAT HE IS A "VICTIM," BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE COULD NOT KILL HIS ONLY SON, SO HE USED A DOPPELGANGER TO FOOL US.
YOUR ANALYSIS IS REASONABLE. THE DUKE, RATHER THAN BISHOP CAI, IS OUR PRIME SUSPECT. WE HAVE NO REAL PROOF AT THIS MOMENT, BUT IF WHAT YOU SUSPECT IS TRUE, THEN WE MUST GO ALONG WITH HIS RUSE FOR NOW!

MASTER ZHUGE BEGAN INITIATING HIS STRATEGY. ON THE SURFACE, EVERYTHING SEEMED THE SAME. HE CONTINUED TO EXPEND HIS CHI HEALING THE DUKE DAILY. BUT IN SECRET, HE PLACED THE POISONOUS SPORES INTO THE INCENSE AS A POSSIBLE FINAL WEAPON AGAINST THE DUKE'S SCHEMES
AT THE SAME TIME, COLD BLOODED PRETENDED TO DUEL AND LOSE TO BAIYU ZHOU, MAKING SURE THAT THE NEWS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL
EMOTIONLESS AND IRON HANDS JOINED FORCES.
TO ASCERTAIN THE DUKE'S REACTION TO NEWS OF COLD BLOODED'S WEAKENED STATE, THEY ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THEIR POSSIBLE ENEMY
MASTER ZHUGE KNEW THAT THE 13 MURDERERS WOULD USE THE HOSTAGE EXCHANGE AS A WAY TO PLACE THEMSELVES WITHIN THE HALL. AND THAT THE RESCUE OF SIMA WOULD BE THE START OF THEIR FINAL PLAN.
DUKE ZHU WU WAS THE ONLY UNKNOWN FACTOR, AND SEEMED UNAFFECTED BY THE POISON. THIS COULD UPSET ALL OF MASTER ZHUGE'S PLANS.
I THOUGHT HE ONLY HAD AT MOST 50% OF HIS POWERS, BUT HE'S AT FULL STRENGTH. I CALCULATED WRONG!
THINGS SPIRALED DOWN QUICKLY FROM THAT ONE OVERSIGHT. MASTER ZHUGE WAS FORCED TO PLAY HIS TRUMP CARD FOR A CHANCE AT SURVIVAL, HOPING TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND AND GAIN VICTORY

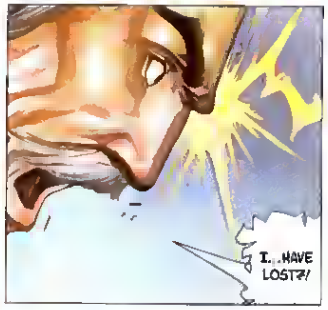

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, YOU SLY OLD DOG! IT IS MY FORTUNE TO HAVE SUCH A FANTASTIC OPPONENT!

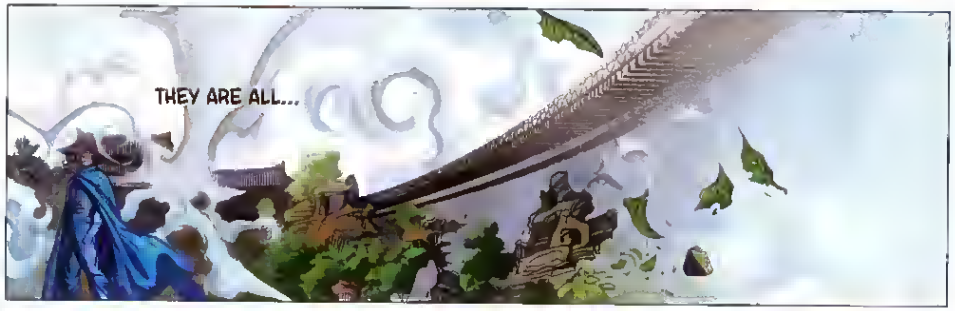

BUT THERE IS STILL ONE THING I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. IF YOU KNEW THAT I WAS THE TRUE CULPRIT, WHY NOT JUST FINISH ME OFF YOURSELF? WHY HAVE LIFE SNATCHER FIGHT ME INSTEAD?
IT IS QUITE SIMPLE. IF I TOOK YOU ON RIGHT AWAY, THE POISON WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO SPREAD, AND I WOULD ALREADY BE DEAD...

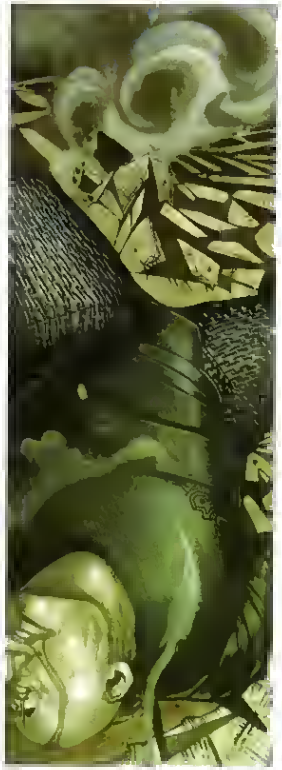
LIFE SNATCHER WOULD NOT SIT IDLY BY WHILE MY LIFE IS IN DANGER. HE WOULD JOIN ME TO FIGHT AGAINST YOU, AND WE WOULD BOTH BE KILLED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF US ALL. IF THAT HAPPENED, THAT IS WHY I PRESUMPTUOUSLY TURNED DOWN YOUR CHALLENGES.

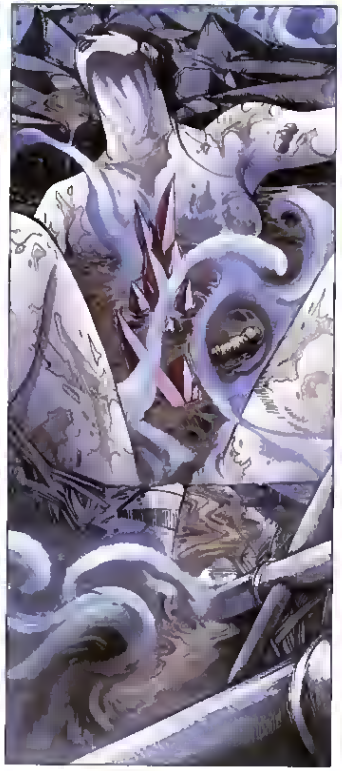

THE SPORES TAKE SOME TIME TO COURSE THROUGH ALL THE CHI OF A POWERFUL FIGHTER LIKE ME. IF I HAD SEEN THROUGH THIS EARLIER, HIS PLANS WOULD NEVER HAVE SUCCEEDED, BUT I WAS TOO CARELESS!
IT IS BECAUSE DUKE ZHU WU DID NOT CONSIDER ME AS A THREAT AT ALL. UNCLE USED ME TO TRICK HIM INTO BEING EXCESSIVELY CAUTIOUS. THAT IS WHY I LASTED LONG ENOUGH FOR THE POISON TO TAKE EFFECT...
IF THE MASTER WERE TO HAVE FOUGHT, DUKE ZHU WU WOULD HAVE USED HIS FULL STRENGTH IMMEDIATELY, THUS KILLING ALL OF US. MASTER IS TRULY A GENIUS!

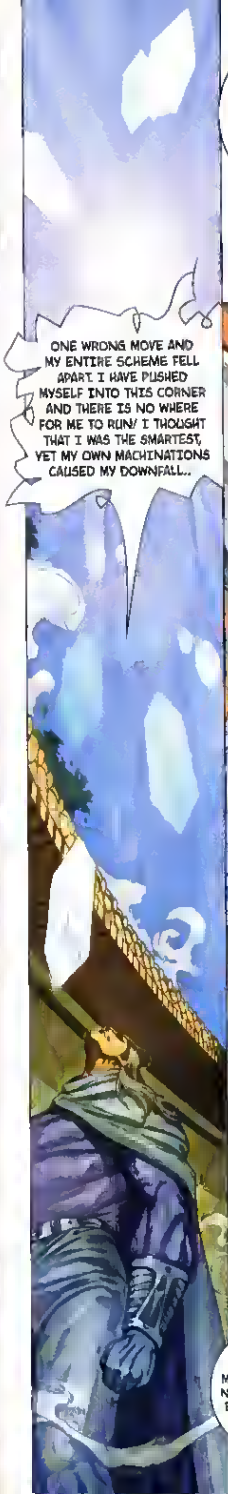
DUKE, YOU HAVE LOST THIS GAME PLEASE DO NOT RESIST ANY LONGER WE WILL NOW ARREST YOU FOR YOUR CRIMES!


I...HAVE LOST?!


THEY ARE ALL...

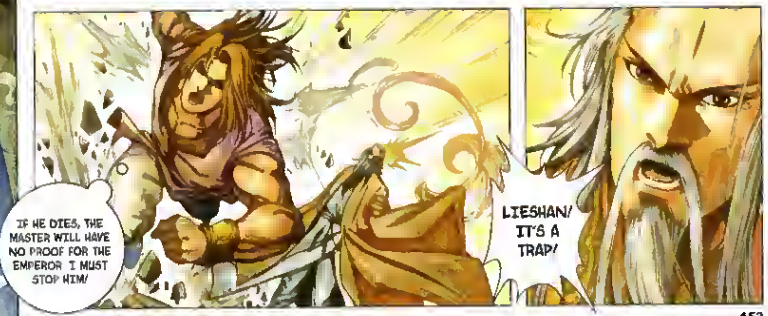




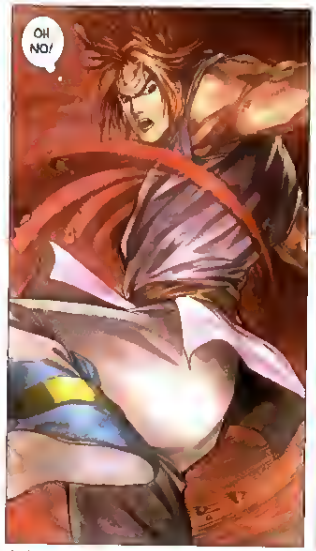

ONE WRONG MOVE AND MY ENTIRE SCHEME FELL APART I HAVE PUSHED MYSELF INTO THIS CORNER AND THERE IS NO WHERE FOR ME TO RUN! I THOUGHT THAT I WAS THE SMARTEST, YET MY OWN MACHINATIONS CAUSED MY DOWNFALL...

HE'S ACCEPTING HIS LOSS...
I HAVE LOST. I ADMIT IT. BUT YOU WANT ME TO STAND TRIAL IN FRONT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND AND BE MOCKED AND EXECUTED BY THAT FOOL OF AN EMPEROR?!

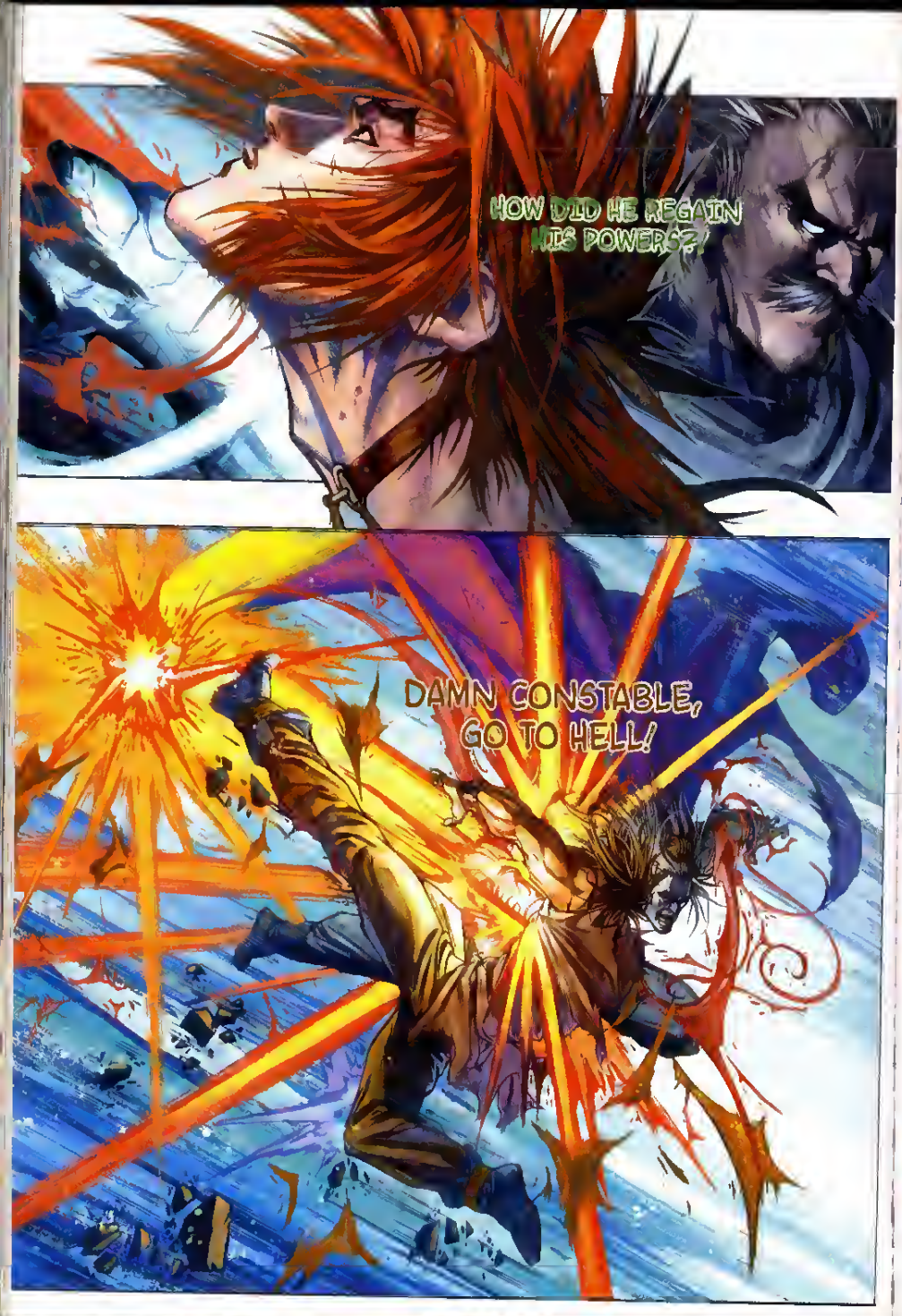
I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!
STOP!


IF HE DIES, THE MASTER WILL HAVE NO PROOF FOR THE EMPEROR I MUST STOP HIM!
LIESHAN! IT'S A TRAP!

TOO LATE!


OH NO!

KUNLUN FIRE
BIRD STYLE
FLAME EAGLE
NINE WREST!


HOW DID HE REGAIN HIS POWERS?!
DAMN CONSTABLE, GO TO HELL!

HE'S STILL BREATHING LIESHAN MUST HAVE USED ALL OF HIS CHI TO GUARD HIS HEART MERIDIAN. OTHERWISE, THAT BLOW WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM!

FLAME EAGLE NINE WREST
SPACE DISTORTION
SOUL SNARE

TRI-CHI DELTA FORCE

SUFFERING

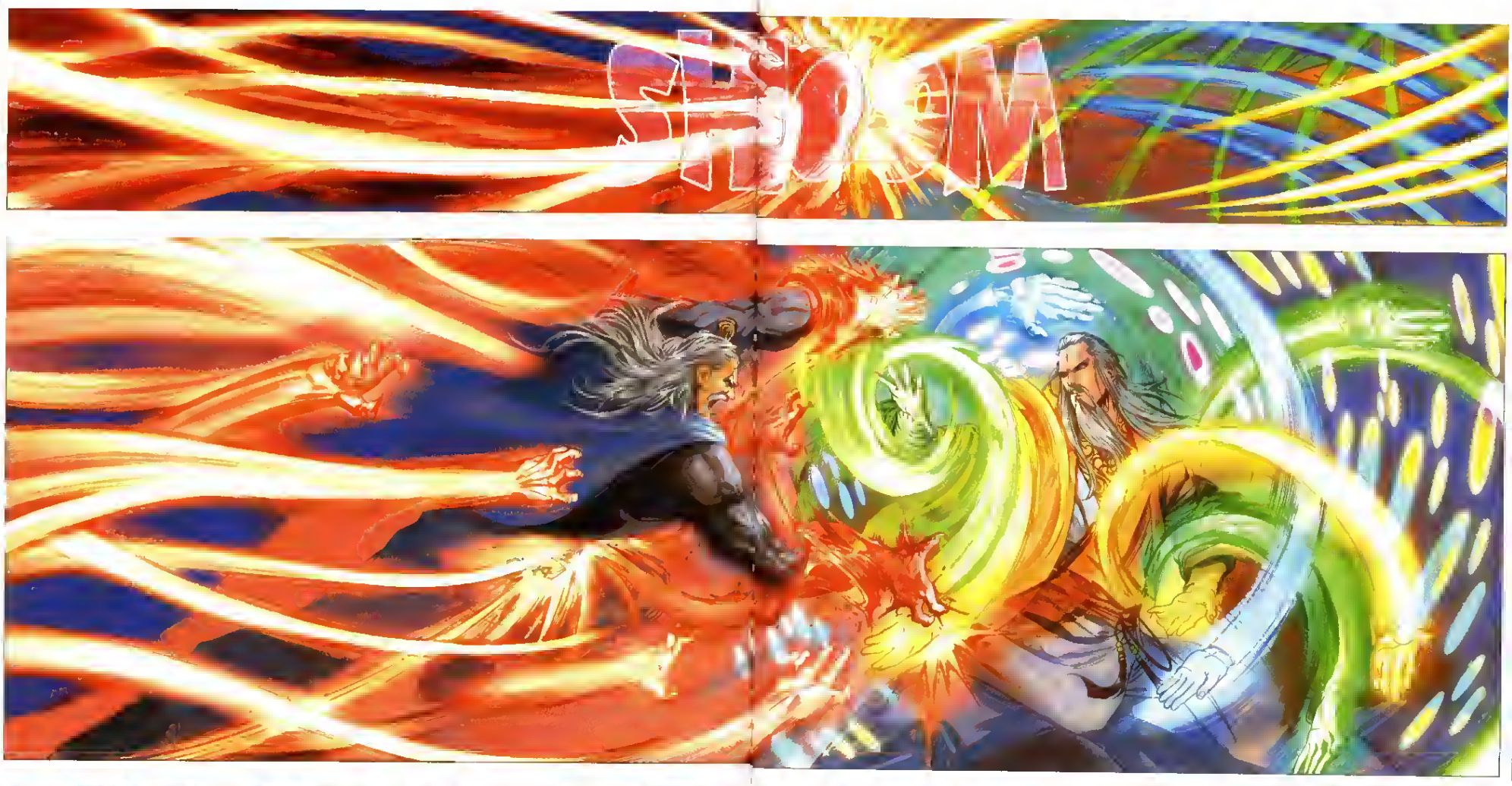
JUST AS I SUSPECTED. HE'S MORE THAN 50% RECOVERED!
HOW DARE YOU! THWART NVIDIANS! DIE!
QUESTING GODS SEEKING SOULS
THE DUKE ATTACKS WITH WAVES OF ENERGY. MASTER ZHUGE IS INTENT UPON SAVING LIFE SNATCHER, SO HE DODGES THE ATTACKS TO ESCAPE OUTRIGHT.

YOU WOULD RUIN YOUR OWN BODY AND WASTE YOUR LIFE, ALL TO ESCAPE JUSTICE. .
DUKE ZHU WU, YOU ARE DESPICABLE!

IF I CAN'T EVEN PROTECT MY OWN LIFE, THEN OF WHAT USE ARE MY POWERS TO ME?
DYING WITH MY ENEMIES SOUNDS LIKE A BETTER OPTION!
MY STRATEGY IS NOT AS BRILLIANT AS YOURS, BUT MY MARTIAL ARTS WILL NEVER LOSE TO YOU!
BECAUSE I ALSO HAVE A LAST GAMBIT!

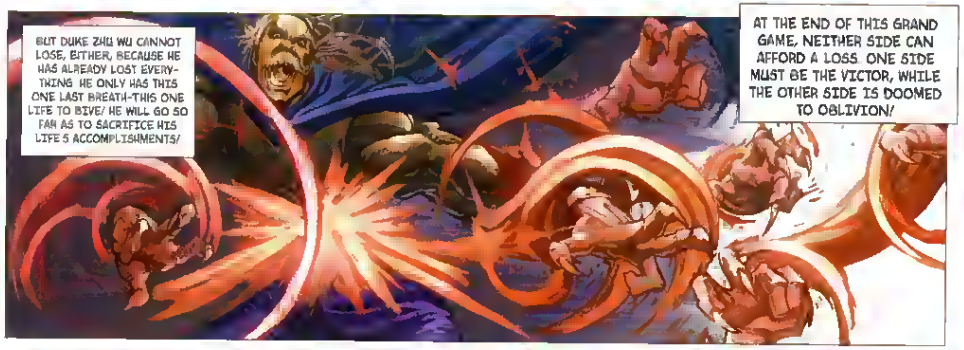
DUKE ZHU WU HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT MARTIAL ARTIST. HE HAS LEARNED ALMOST ALL THE STYLES AND TECHNIQUES IN THE LAND, AND HE'S EVEN PRACTICED FORBIDDEN TECHNIQUES THAT NOBODY ELSE ALIVE KNOWS OF!
TIENZHU DEMON CLAN TCHNIQUE
BLOOD NET
TIENZHU DEMON CLAN TECHNIQUE USES BLOOD TO DRAW OUT POWER IN LIEU OF TRUE CHI. DUKE ZHU WU'S CHI WAS SEALED COMPLETELY IN HIS DIANTIEN (THE CENTER OF ONE'S LIFEFORCE.) AS HIS LAST CHANCE FOR VENGEANCE, HE USED HIS OWN BLOOD TO FORCE POWER BACK INTO HIS BODY! THOUGH ULTIMATELY DESTRUCTIVE, IT ALLOWS THE DUKE TO USE HIS FULL POWERS FOR A LIMITED TIME!
THE BOSS IS STILL SO POWERFUL AFTER ALL OF THIS! OLD MAN ZHUGE IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT NOW! JUST KILL HIM AND MY DREAMS WILL FINALLY COME TRUE!
SIMA KNOWS NOTHING OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED. HE STILL CASTS HIS LOT WITH DUKE ZHU WU, NOT REALIZING THAT THIS WAS THE DUKE'S LAST GAMBIT. AFTER THIS ATTACK, THE DUKE'S MARTIAL ARTS ABILITY WILL BE COMPLETELY SAPPED, LEAVING SIMA'S DREAM OF GLORIOUS DEATH UNFULFILLED

STUBBORN CRIMINAL, I WILL HAVE TO SHOW YOU THE TRUE JUSTICE OF THE HEAVENS!
DUKE ZHU WU IS LOCKED IN A LIFE AND DEATH SHOWDOWN WITH MASTER ZHUGE. WHO WILL BE THE FINAL VICTOR? WILL SIMA OBTAIN THE GLORIOUS DEATH HE SO DESIRES?

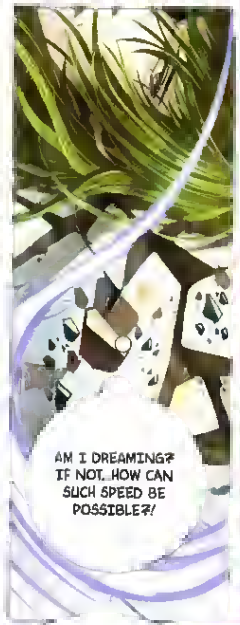

BOOM

DUKE ZHU WU RISKS EVERYTHING FOR A CHANCE AT VENGEANCE. HE IS RECKLESSLY DESTROYING HIS MARTIAL ARTS ABILITY IN A DESPERATE GAMBLE. IN THE END, IT COMES DOWN TO THE LEADER OF THE 13 MURDERERS VS. THE LEADER OF THE 4 CONSTABLES...

TO PROTECT BAIYU ZHOU AND HIS 3 REMAINING CONSTABLES, AND TO BRING JUSTICE TO THE COUNTLESS MURDER VICTIMS, MASTER ZHUGE MUST NOT LOSE!

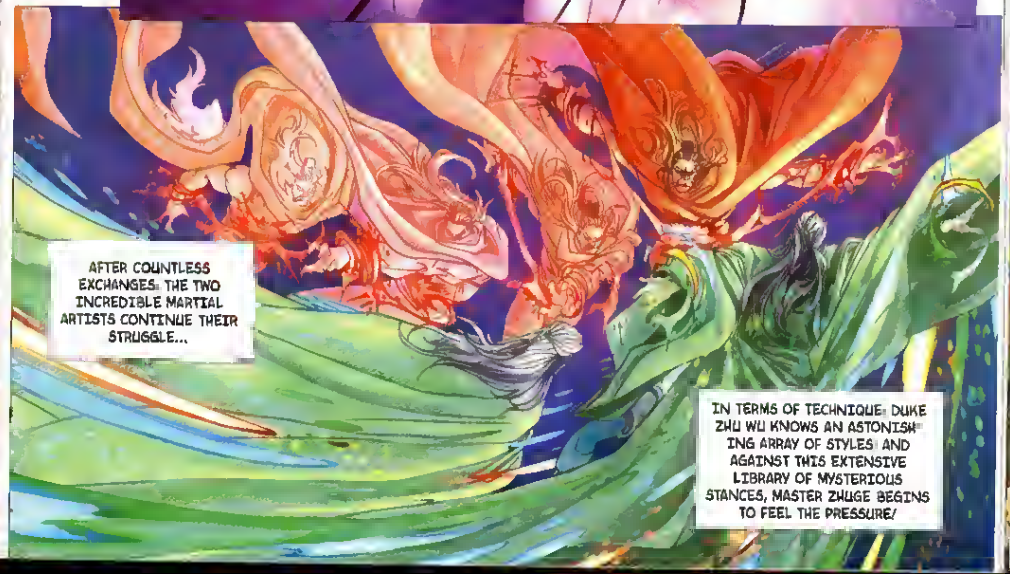

BUT DUKE ZHU WU CANNOT LOSE, EITHER, BECAUSE HE HAS ALREADY LOST EVERYTHING. HE ONLY HAS THIS ONE LAST BREATH-THIS ONE LIFE TO GIVE! HE WILL GO SO FAR AS TO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS!
AT THE END OF THIS GRAND GAME, NEITHER SIDE CAN AFFORD A LOSS. ONE SIDE MUST BE THE VICTOR, WHILE THE OTHER SIDE IS DOOMED TO OBLIVION!

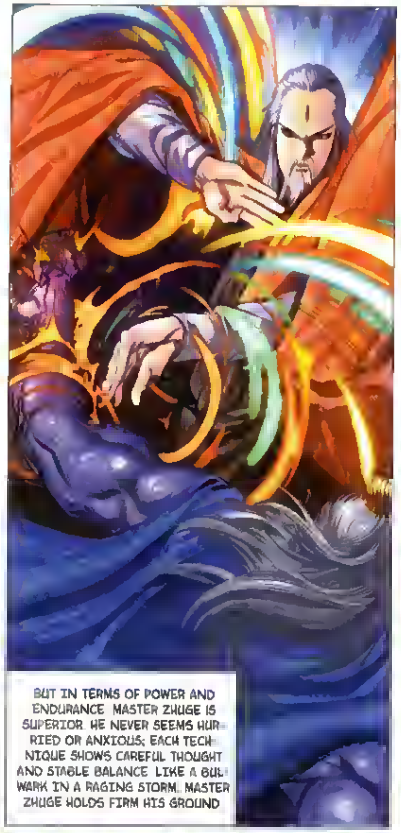
SPEEDING TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER FASTER THAN LIGHTNING, EVEN COLD BLOODED THE SWIFTEST CONSTABLE ONLY SEES TWO MIRAGE-LIKE STREAKS FLY ACROSS THE SKY!
A BATTLE OF TITANIC PROPORTIONS IS UNDERWAY, AND EACH STANCE, EACH STRIKE IS FILLED WITH INCOMPREHENSIBLE POWER!


AM I DREAMING? IF NOT, HOW CAN SUCH SPEED BE POSSIBLE?!

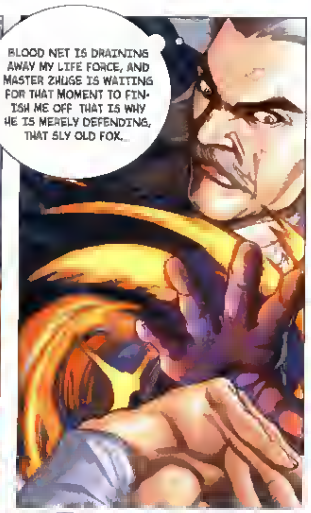
SIMA STARES INTENTLY AS WELL. HE CANNOT DISCERN HOW THE BATTLE IS GOING. HE'S NOT EVEN ABLE TO DISCERN WHO IS ATTACKING WHOM! ALL HE CAN FEEL IS THE WILL OF THE BATTLE...

VICTORY WILL BELONG TO OUR LEADER! TO FULFILL THE PROMISE THAT HE MADE TO ME, HE WILL KILL THAT DAMNABLE ZHUGE, ASCEND TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE AND THEN PUBLICLY GRANT ME A GRANDIOSE DEATH IN FRONT OF THE MULTITUDES!
OUR LEADER IS TRUSTWORTHY. HE WILL SURELY DO WHAT HE HAS PROMISED!


AFTER COUNTLESS EXCHANGES, THE TWO INCREDIBLE MARTIAL ARTISTS CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE...
IN TERMS OF TECHNIQUE, DUKE ZHU WU KNOWS AN ASTONISHING ARRAY OF STYLES! AND AGAINST THIS EXTENSIVE LIBRARY OF MYSTERIOUS STANCES, MASTER ZHUGE BEGINS TO FEEL THE PRESSURE!

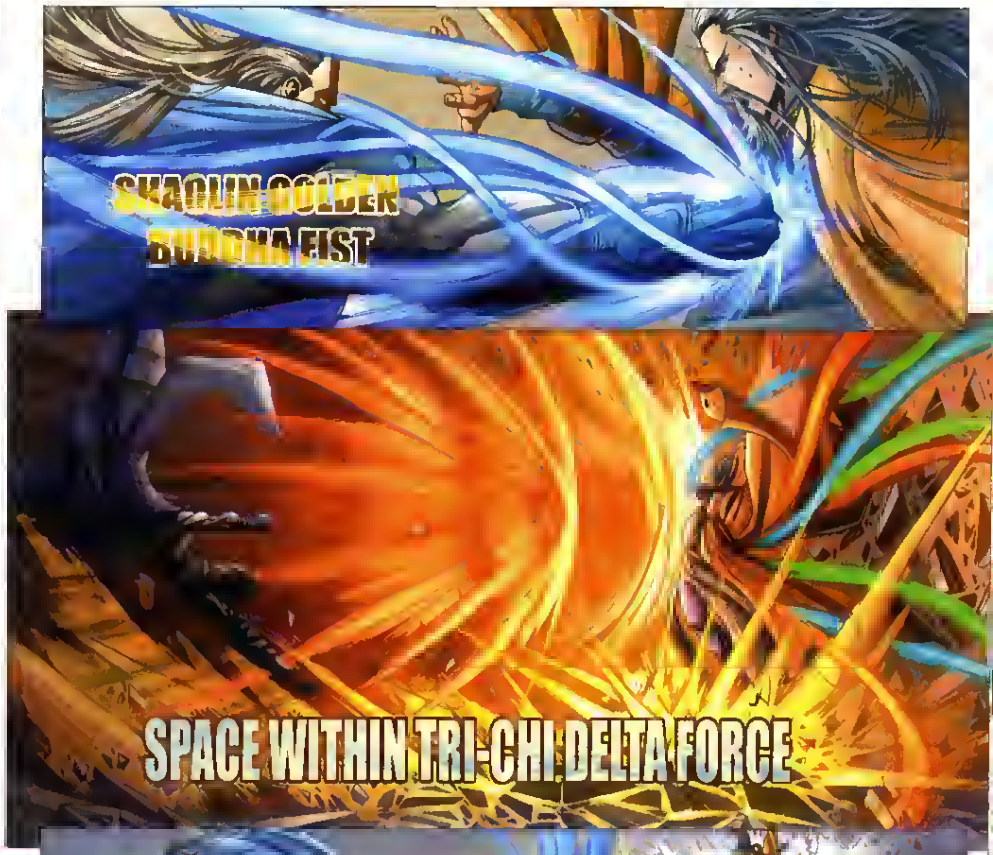

BUT IN TERMS OF POWER AND ENDURANCE, MASTER ZHUGE IS SUPERIOR. HE NEVER SEEMS HURRIED OR ANXIOUS; EACH TECHNIQUE SHOWS CAREFUL THOUGHT AND STABLE BALANCE. LIKE A BULWARK IN A RAGING STORM, MASTER ZHUGE HOLDS FIRM HIS GROUND.

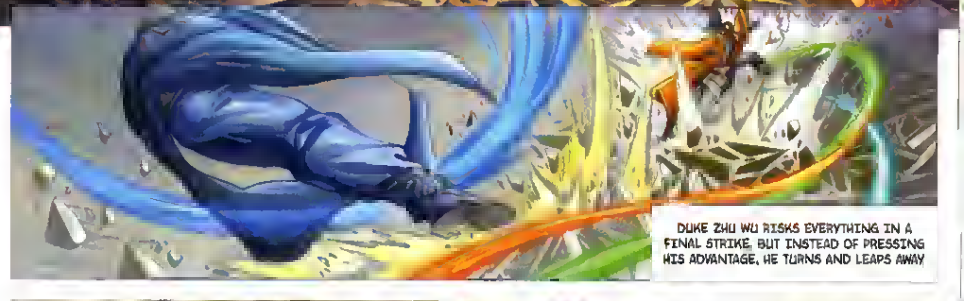
AN OCCASIONALLY SUCCESSFUL COUNTERSTRIKE BY MASTER ZHUGE LEAVES DUKE ZHU WU FLUSTERED.

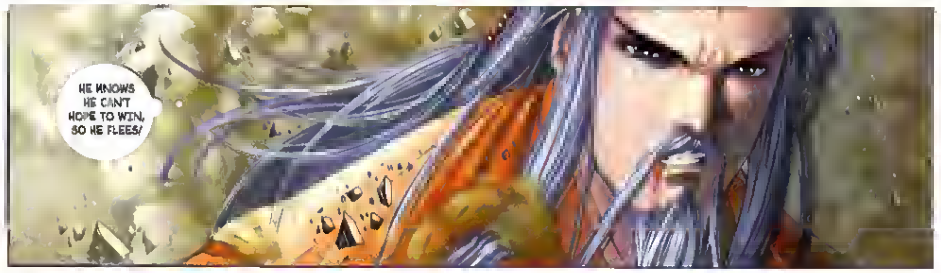

BLOOD NET IS DRAINING AWAY MY LIFE FORCE, AND MASTER ZHUGE IS WAITING FOR THAT MOMENT TO FINISH ME OFF. THAT IS WHY HE IS MERELY DEFENDING, THAT SLY OLD FOX...

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM TO FALL FOR SUCH TRICKS?!

THIS...IT'S A TRAP!


SHAOLIN GOLDEN BUDDHA FIST
SPACE WITHIN TRI-CHI DELTA FORCE


DUKE ZHU WU RISKS EVERYTHING IN A FINAL STRIKE, BUT INSTEAD OF PRESSING HIS ADVANTAGE, HE TURNS AND LEAPS AWAY


HE KNOWS HE CAN'T HOPE TO WIN, SO HE FLEES!

MY DREAMS OF BECOMING EMPEROR HAVE BEEN DASHED AGAINST THE ROCKS OF MY OWN AMBITIONS. .BUT I STILL HAVE COUNTLESS GOLD AND GEMS HIDDEN AWAY. WHY RISK MY LIFE NOW, WHEN I CAN FORSAKE MY NAME AND LIVE IN LUXURY/ THAT IS THE WISE CHOICE/

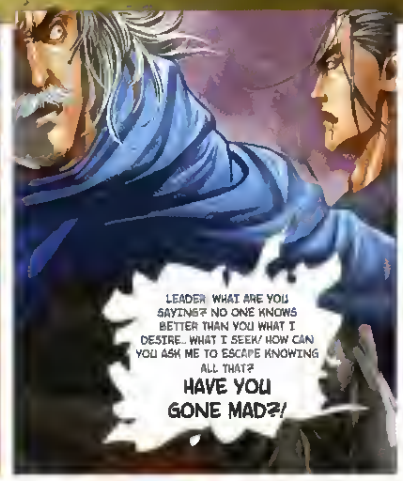
I HAVE RUINED DECADES OF PLANNING. A NORMAL MAN WOULD BE OVERCOME BY ANGER AND ATTEMPT TO KILL ME THE DUKE MAKES THE BEST OF THE SITUATION STILL. WHAT A FRIGHTENING SENSE OF CALM/

YOU HAVE LOST YOUR LAST CHANCE/ NO MATTER HOW QUICK YOU ARE. YOU WILL NEVER CATCH ME/ MAYBE IN THE NEXT LIFETIME/

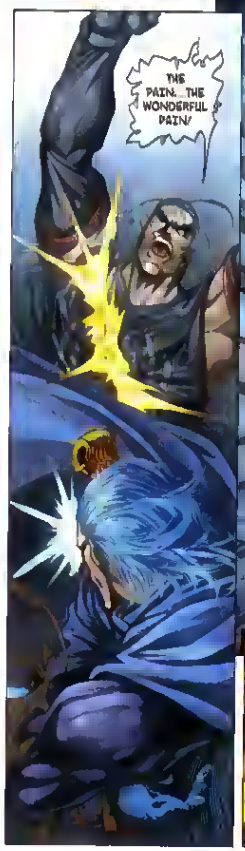
NO ONE ELSE ASIDE FROM MASTER ZHUGE CAN STOP ME... WHO IS THIS/?

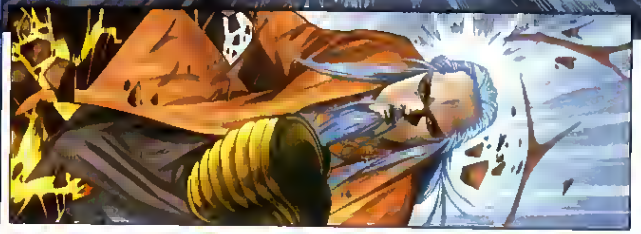
IN ALL HIS CALCULATIONS, THE DUKE SEEMS TO HAVE MISSED ONE MONSTER HE HELPED TO CREATE –
SIMA HUANGFEN
LEADER OUR MISSION IS NOT YET COMPLETE. HOW CAN YOU JUST LEAVE LIKE

STOP DREAMING, YOU FOOL/ IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE HERE, THEN YOU MUST FOLLOW ME/

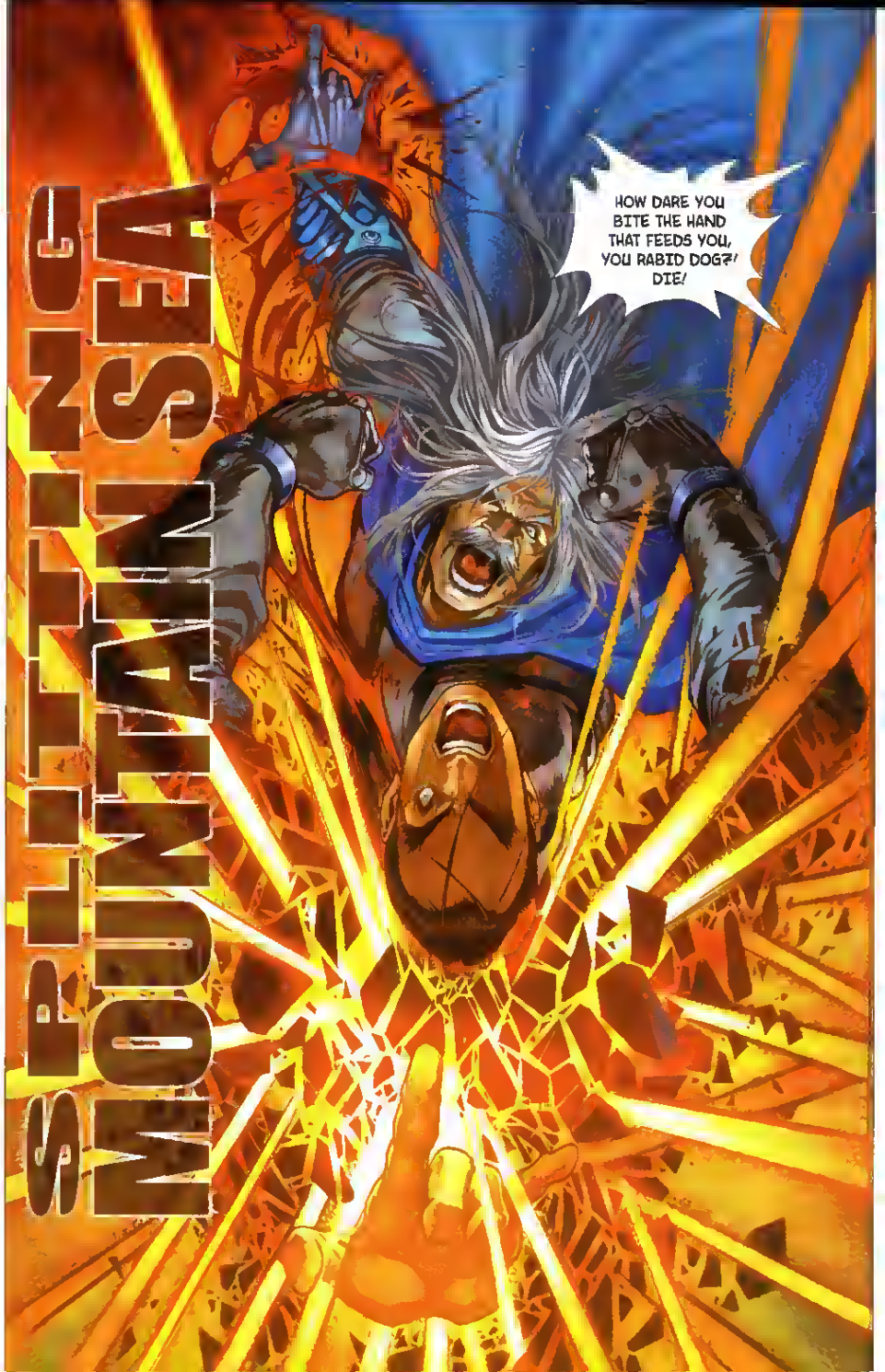

LEADER WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN YOU WHAT I DESIRE.. WHAT I SEEK/ HOW CAN YOU ASK ME TO ESCAPE KNOWING ALL THAT?
HAVE YOU GONE MAD?/

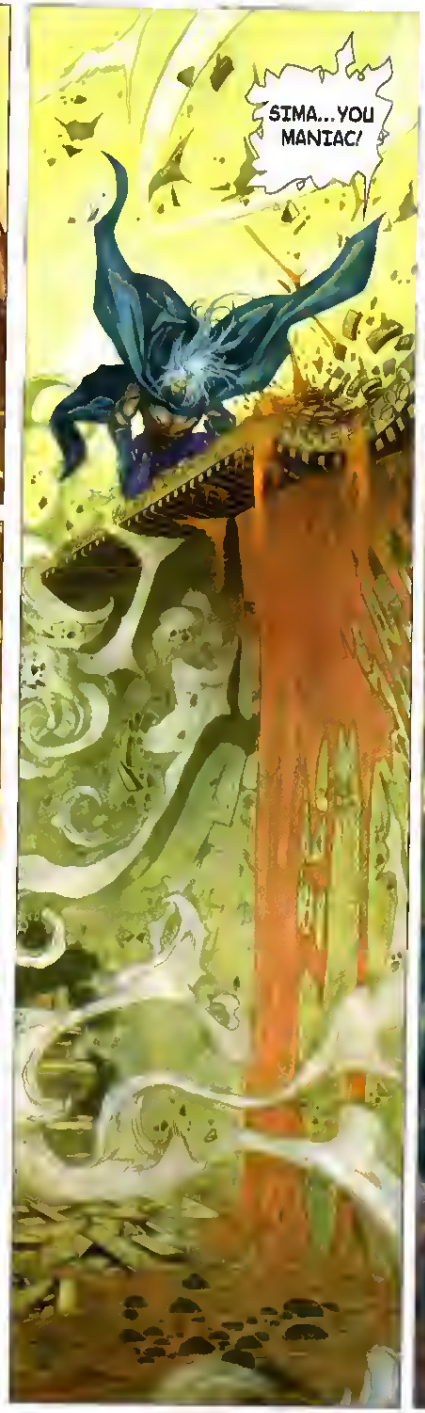
DEATH OF GODS
MASSACRE OF BUDDHA BLADE

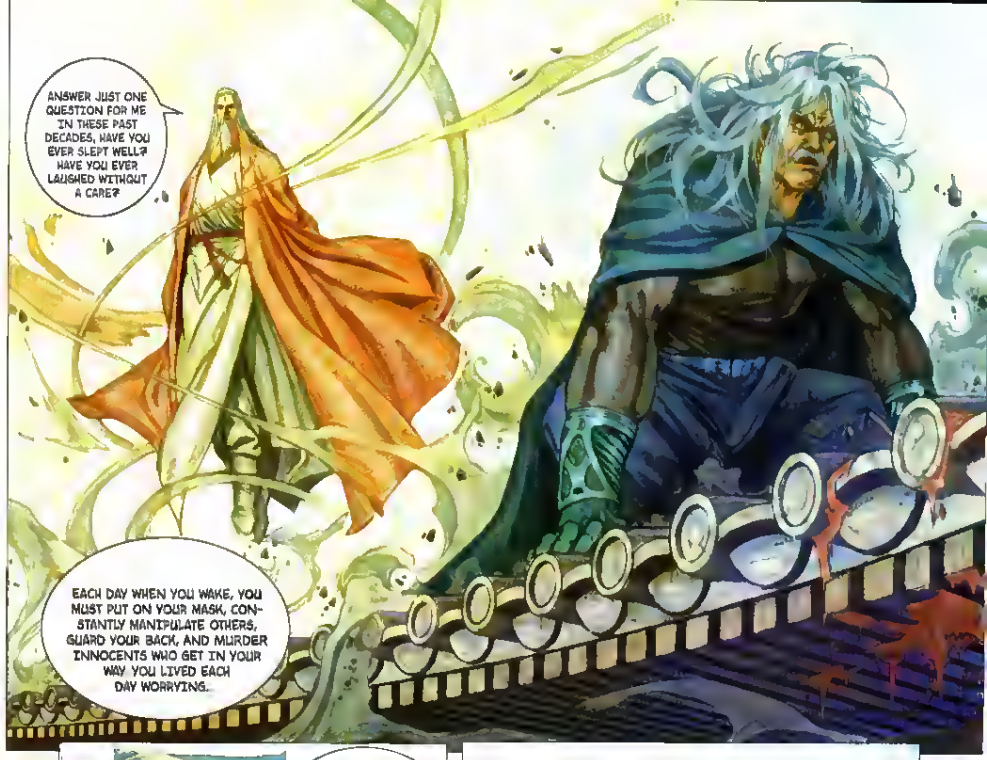




SPLITTING MOUNTAIN SEA






ANSWER JUST ONE QUESTION FOR ME IN THESE PAST DECADES, HAVE YOU EVER SLEPT WELL? HAVE YOU EVER LAUGHED WITHOUT A CARE?
EACH DAY WHEN YOU WAKE, YOU MUST PUT ON YOUR MASK, CONSTANTLY MANIPULATE OTHERS, GUARD YOUR BACK, AND MURDER INNOCENTS WHO GET IN YOUR WAY. YOU LIVED EACH DAY WORRYING.

EVEN ONE DAY OF THAT TYPE OF LIFE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!
IF YOU WERE NOT CRAZED, WHY WOULD YOU SUBJECT YOURSELF TO THIS HELLISH LIFE, JUST FOR A CHANCE AT THE HOLLOW TITLE OF "EMPEROR"?

FEELING CAREFREE,
IT SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME AGO...

I VAGUELY REMEMBER...
LONG AGO, THERE WERE CAREFREE TIMES,
I LAUGHED OUT LOUD WITHOUT FEAR,
EVEN A BOWL OF BLAND RICE TASTED
BETTER THAN ANY FEAST...

WHEN DID I STOP FEELING
HAPPY AND CAREFREE....?

OH... I REMEMBER/ IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WANTED TO BE EMPEROR, AND FOR THAT I HAVE LOST MY HAPPINESS AND MY PURPOSE FOR LIVING.../
SIMA WAS RIGHT. COMPARED TO YOU, HE WAS MUCH HAPPIER. AT LEAST HE DID NOT SUFFER AS LONG AS YOU HAVE.
HA HA/ I BROUGHT THIS UPON MYSELF/ FOR AN EMPTY DREAM. I HAVE WASTED MY LIFE, COMMITTED COUNTLESS SINS
IN THE END I KILLED MY OWN FAMILY...ALL FOR THIS EMPTY BROKEN DREAM/ HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO FOOLISH?/
HA HA HA///
HA HA HA
FOUR CONSTABLES
<<THE END>>